



»GENERAL

School	University of North Dakota
Location	Grand Forks, ND (58202)
Founded	1883
Enrollment	13,927 (Spring 2017)
School Colors	Kelly Green & White
Home Arena (Capacity)	Alerus Center (12,283)
National Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Big Sky
President	Mark Kennedy
Director of Athletics	Brian Faison
Senior Woman Administrator	Daniella Irl
Faculty Athletic Representative	Sue Jen
Athletic Department	(701) 777-2234
Ticket Office	(701) 777-0855
Press Box	(701) 792-1501/1502

»HISTORY

First Year of Football	1894
All-time Record	642-397-30 (119 seasons)
All-time DI Record	52-48 (nine seasons)
All-time DII Record	589-349-30 (110 seasons)

»COACHING STAFF

Head Coach/Corners	Bubba Schweigert (Jamestown, 1985)
Record at UND	21-14 .600 (three seasons)
Career Record as Head Coach	42-34 (seven seasons)
Defensive Coordinator/ILBs	Eric Schmidt (4th season)
Offensive Coordinator/QBs	Paul Rudolph (4th season)
Special Teams Coord./TEs	Shawn Kostich (4th season)
Running Backs	Kevin Maurice (4th season)
Wide Receivers	Danny Freund (7th season)
Offensive Line	Luke Knauf (4th season)
Defensive Backs	Travis Stepps (2nd season)
Defensive Line	Jordan Gigli (4th season)
Outside Linebackers	Joel Schwenzfeier (5th season)
Assistant Coach/Video Coordinator	Carl Reinholz (4th season)
Athletic Trainer	Sean Degerstrom (3rd season)
Athletic Trainer	Audrey Rambough (11th season)
Strength & Conditioning	Nate Baukol (15th season)
Equipment Manager	Travis Kahlbaugh (15th season)

»TEAM INFORMATION

2016 Overall Record	9-3
2016 Home Record	5-1
2016 Away Record	4-2
2016 Big Sky Record/Finish	8-0 1st
Starters Returning/Lost	18/7
	Offense: 9/2
	Defense: 6/5
	Specialists: 3/0
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	44/13
	Offense: 22/5
	Defense: 19/8
	Specialists: 3/0

»2017 SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME
03/03 (Friday) No. 1	7:45 a.m.
03/04 (Saturday) No. 2	9:15 a.m.
03/06 (Monday) No. 3	7:45 a.m.
03/08 (Wednesday) No. 4	7:45 a.m.
03/22 (Wednesday) No. 5	7:45 a.m.
03/25 (Saturday) No. 6	9:15 a.m.
03/27 (Monday) No. 7	7:45 a.m.
03/29 (Wednesday) No. 8	7:45 a.m.
03/31 (Friday) No. 9	7:45 a.m.
04/03 (Monday) No. 10	7:45 a.m.
04/05 (Wednesday) No. 11	7:45 a.m.
04/07 (Friday) No. 12	7:45 a.m.
04/10 (Monday) No. 13	7:45 a.m.
04/12 (Wednesday) No. 14	7:45 a.m.
04/14 (Friday) No. 15	5 p.m.

All practices scheduled for the High Performance Center unless otherwise noted |
*Times and location subject to change

»2016 RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	ATTEN	RECORD
09/03	at Stony Brook	L, 13-9	6,153	0-1, 0-0
09/10	at Bowling Green	L, 27-26	15,318	0-2, 0-0
09/17	South Dakota	W, 47-44 (20T)	11,477	1-2, 0-0
09/24	at Montana State*	W, 17-15	19,507	2-2, 1-0
10/01	(16) Cal Poly*	W, 31-24	10,097	3-2, 2-0
10/08	at Sacramento State*	W, 40-7	9,614	4-2, 3-0
10/15	Southern Utah*	W, 45-23	10,506	5-2, 4-0
10/22	at Idaho State*	W, 28-21	6,320	6-2, 5-0
10/29	Weber State*	W, 27-19	8,699	7-2, 6-0
11/05	at Northern Colorado*	W, 23-13	4,322	8-2, 7-0
11/12	Northern Arizona*	W, 38-31	9,049	9-2, 8-0
12/03	(12) Richmond#	L, 27-24	9,837	9-3, 8-0

Home games listed in BOLD
* denotes Big Sky Conference games #FCS Playoffs

»2017 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
08/31	at Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	TBA
09/09	Missouri State	Grand Forks, N.D.	TBA
09/16	at South Dakota	Vermillion, S.D.	TBA
09/23	Montana State*	Grand Forks, N.D.	TBA
09/30	at UC Davis	Davis, Calif.	TBA
10/07	Northern Colorado*	Grand Forks, N.D.	TBA
10/14	at Montana*	Missoula, Mont.	TBA
10/21	Sacramento State*	Grand Forks, N.D.	TBA
10/28	at Portland State*	Portland, Ore.	TBA
11/04	at Southern Utah*	Cedar City, Utah	TBA
11/11	Eastern Washington*	Grand Forks, N.D.	TBA

Home games listed in BOLD
All times central
* denotes Big Sky Conference games

»MEDIA INFORMATION

Football Contact/Associate Director	Ryan Powell
Powell's Office Phone	(701) 777-2986
Powell's Cell Phone	(701) 213-5921
Powell's Email	ryan.powell@athletics.und.edu

AMR Mailing Address Athletic Media Relations Office
University of North Dakota
Hyslop Sports Center Room 120
2751 2nd Avenue North, Stop 9013
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9013



NO.	NAME	POS.	YR.	HT.	WT.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
1	Cam McKinney	WR	FR	5-9	165	Beaumont, Texas/Garfield (Seattle, Wash.) HS
2	Jade Lawrence*	LB	SO	6-2	200	Moorehead, Minn./Moorhead HS
3	Tyus Carter*	DB	JR	5-11	180	Greenwood Village, Colo./Cherry Creek HS
4	Reid Taubenheim***	PK	SR	6-1	185	Farmington, Minn./Farmington HS
5	Brady Oliveira**	RB	JR	5-10	225	Winnipeg, Manitoba/Oak Park HS
6	Evan Holm*	DB	SO	5-11	175	Edina, Minn./Edina HS
7	Keaton Studsrud***	QB	SR	6-1	185	St. Louis Park, Minn./Benilde St. Margaret's HS
8	Cole Reyes***	DB	SR	6-2	205	Schaumburg, Ill./Schaumburg HS
9	Brad Heidlebaugh	QB	SO	6-4	220	Rugby, N.D./Rugby HS
10	Andrew Zimmerman	QB	SO	6-2	195	Monroe, Wash./Fresno City College
11	Travis Toivonen*	WR	SO	6-4	215	Red Wing, Minn./Red Wing HS
12	Ben Bolinske	QB	RFR	6-0	185	Minot, N.D./Minot HS
14	Jake Geier	LB	RFR	6-2	200	Anodver, Minn./Andover HS
15	Jaxson Turner	LB	RFR	6-2	200	Esko, Minn./Esko HS
16	Torrey Hunt*	DB	SO	6-1	185	Madison, Ala./Navy Prep
17	Charles Flowers*	DB	SR	5-11	180	Chino Hills, Calif./Citrus College
18	Tamas Stewart	DB	JR	6-0	195	Rialto, Calif./Chaffey College
19	Deion Harris***	DB	JR	6-3	180	Hibbing, Minn./Hibbing HS
20	Easton Erbes	WR	RFR	6-0	170	Breckenridge, Minn./Breckenridge HS
21	Tanner Palmborg*	LB	JR	6-1	205	Princeton, Minn./Princeton HS
22	John Santiago**	RB	SO	5-9	180	Andover, Minn./St. Francis HS
23	Josh Seibel***	WR	JR	5-11	180	Bismarck, N.D./Bismarck HS
24	Garrett Bollant*	DB	JR	5-11	175	Lodi, Wis./Lodi HS
25	Jordan Canady	DB	RFR	6-2	185	New Berlin, Wis./Eisenhower HS
26	Connor O'Brien***	LB	SR	6-1	225	Lemont, Ill./Lemont HS
27	Oscar Nevermann	RB	SR	6-1	215	Stockholm, Sweden/Wyoming
28	Austin Gordon*	RB	SO	5-9	190	Maple Grove, Minn./Wayzata HS
29	Andre Randolph	DB	RFR	6-0	190	Indianapolis, Ind./Lawrence Central HS
30	Christian Comstock	LB	RFR	6-2	195	Hermantown, Minn./Hermantown HS
31	Noah Wanzek	WR	SO	6-4	190	Jamestown, N.D./Jamestown HS
32	Brett Finke	FB	RFR	6-0	235	Muskego, Wis./Muskego HS
33	James Johannesson	RB	SO	6-1	230	Fargo, N.D./Minnesota
34	Luke Fiedler**	TE	JR	6-5	250	Orlando, Fla./Freedom HS
35	Vashon Tucker	DB	SO	5-11	190	Wilmington, Dela./Eastern Christian Academy
36	Hunter Pinke	TE	RFR	6-5	230	Wishek, N.D./South Border HS
38	Dijon Murray	LB	SR	6-0	225	New Orleans, La./New Mexico Military Academy
39	Derek Paulson	TE	RFR	6-4	215	Lodi, Wis./Lodi HS
42	Kyle Norberg***	FB	SR	6-1	240	Cary Grove, Ill./Cary Grove HS
43	Drew Greely***	DL	SR	6-3	250	Wayzata, Minn./Wayzata HS
44	Donnell Rodgers	LB	SO	6-1	215	Woodbury, Minn./Woodbury HS
45	Cameron Hunt	LB	RFR	6-1	210	Carmel, Ind./Carmel HS
46	Tyler Coyne	FB	JR	6-1	240	Plymouth, Minn./Maple Grove HS
47	Ray Haas	LB	RFR	6-5	200	Centennial, Colo./Arapahoe HS
48	Jake Disterhaupt***	LB	JR	6-1	210	Willow River, Minn./Moose Lake-Willow River HS
49	Keelan Poole	LB	SO	6-2	205	Aurora, Colo./Grandview HS
50	Andre Steiger	LB	SO	6-0	215	Glen Ellyn, Ill./Glenbard South HS
51	Jake Rastas	LB	RFR	6-2	195	New Berlin, Wis./Eisenhower HS
52	Carter Wilson*	DL	SO	6-3	225	Ottawa, Ontario/Arnprior District HS

2017 SPRING ROSTER	
<i>(Alphabetical)</i>	
93	ALM, Logan. TE
53	APLIN, Grant. OL
80	BARTOSH, Chad. WR
76	BELL, Dan. OL
55	BENNETT, Mason. LB
68	BLAIR, Bryce. OL
83	BLACKWELL, Carter. . . . WR
94	BOLDUC, Connor. P
12	BOLINSKE, Ben. QB
24	BOLLANT, Garrett. DB
25	CANADY, Jordan. DB
87	CARR, Stetson. WR
3	CARTER, Tyus. DB
91	CIESLAK, Austin. DL
88	CLOYD, Alex. TE
30	COMSTOCK, Christian. . . LB
72	COX, Mat. OL
46	COYNE, Tyler. FB
48	DISTERHAUPT, Jake. . . . LB
99	DRANKA, Brandon. DL
84	DULIN, Tim. CB
85	DUSSOLD, Austin. P
98	ENGWALL, Carl. DL
20	ERBES, Easton. WR
34	FIEDLER, Luke. TE
32	FINKE, Brett. FB
17	FLOWERS, Charles. DB
14	GEIER, Jake. LB
28	GORDON, Austin. RB
43	GREELY, Drew. DL
77	GREER, Steve. DL
47	HAAS, Ray. LB
19	HARRIS, Deion. DB
92	HARRIS, Tank. DL
9	HEIDLEBAUGH, Brad. . . . QB
73	HELGREN, Bennett. OL
96	HESSFLOW, Colton. . . . DL
6	HOLM, Evan. DB
82	HOLMEN, Jacob. LS
45	HUNT, Cameron. LB
63	HUNT, Devan. OL
16	HUNT, Torrey. DB
33	JOHANNESSON, James. . . RB
2	LAWRENCE, Jade. LB
56	MARLER, Matt. LB
1	MCKINNEY, Cam. WR
97	MEEKS, Jacob. P
89	MERCER, De'mun. WR
61	MILLER, Brandon. OL



NO.	NAME	POS.	YR.	HT.	WT.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
53	Grant Aplin*	OL	JR	6-1	300	Victoria, Minn./Chanhasen HS
55	Mason Bennett*	DL	RFR	6-4	230	Winnipeg, Manitoba/Vincent Massey HS
56	Matt Marler	LB	RFR	6-1	210	Minot, N.D./Minot HS
57	Mike Thingstad	LB	SR	6-2	215	Velva, N.D./Jamestown
58	Corby Richman	LB	SO	6-0	230	Oriska, N.D./Maple Valley HS
59	Hayden Vogel	LB	SO	6-1	200	Fergus Falls, Minn./Fergus Falls HS
61	Brandon Miller**	OL	SR	6-5	290	Waterford, Wis./Waterford Union HS
62	Ryan Tobin	OL	RFR	6-4	280	Muskego, Wis./Muskego HS
63	Devan Hunt	OL	RFR	6-4	295	Edina, Minn./Edina HS
65	Demon Taylor*	OL	JR	6-4	310	St. Louis, Mo./Soldan International Studies
66	Nathan Nguon	OL	RFR	6-3	285	Burnsville, Minn./Eagan HS
67	Patric Rooney*	OL	SO	6-3	275	St. Louis Park, Minn./Benilde-St. Margaret's HS
68	Bryce Blair*	OL	SO	6-4	250	Greenwood Village, Colo./Cherry Creek HS
70	Sean Russo	OL	RFR	6-6	275	Highlands Ranch, Colo./ThunderRidge HS
72	Mat Cox**	OL	SR	6-5	300	Olympia, Wash./Capital HS
73	Bennett Helgren	OL	RFR	6-5	290	Edina, Minn./Edina HS
75	Adam Stiner	OL	JR	6-6	280	Verona, Wis./Verona HS
76	Dan Bell**	OL	SR	6-5	310	Menomonee Falls, Wis./Monomonee Falls HS
77	Steve Greer	DL	SO	6-1	285	Ballwin, Mo./Parkway South HS
78	A.J. Stockwell***	OL	JR	6-7	315	Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview HS
79	Noah Mortel	OL	RFR	6-6	275	Luck, Wis./Luck HS
80	Chad Bartosh	WR	JR	6-2	185	Grand Forks, N.D./Red River HS
81	Luke Stanley**	WR	JR	6-4	220	Menomonie, Wis./Menomonie HS
82	Jacob Holmen***	LS	SR	6-2	210	Minot, N.D./Minot HS
83	Carter Blackwell	WR	RFR	6-1	180	Dickinson, N.D./Dickinson HS
84	Tim Dulin*	DB	FR	6-4	185	Livonia, Mich./Churchill HS
85	Austin Dussold*	P	SR	6-2	210	Farmington, Mo./Missouri S&T
87	Stetson Carr*	WR	SR	6-2	200	Hazen, N.D./Mary
88	Alex Cloyd*	TE	SO	6-4	240	Omaha, Neb./Millard South HS
89	De'mun Mercer*	WR	SR	6-2	200	Winnsboro, La./Texas State
90	Nick Schmitz**	DL	SR	6-4	280	Mekinock, N.D./Midway HS
91	Austin Cieslak**	DL	JR	6-4	290	Hazen, N.D./Hazen HS
92	Tank Harris**	DL	JR	6-3	300	Chicago, Ill./Morgan Park HS
93	Logan Alm	TE	SO	6-3	270	Hawley, Minn./Hawley HS
94	Connor Bolduc	P	JR	6-3	195	Mahtomedi, Minn./Mahtomedi HS
96	Colton Hessenflow	DL	FR	6-4	230	San Diego, Calif./Scripps Ranch HS
97	Jacob Meeks	P	SR	6-0	210	Corinth, Miss./Northeast Mississippi JC
98	Carl Engwall	DL	SO	6-4	265	Lakeville, Minn./Lakeville North HS
99	Brandon Dranka***	DL	SR	6-2	240	Huntley, Ill./Huntley HS

* denotes letters earned | YR – eligibility for 2017 season

2017 SPRING ROSTER	
<i>(Alphabetical)</i>	
79	MORTEL, Noah OL
38	MURRAY, Dijon LB
27	NEVERMANN, Oscar LB
66	NGUON, Nathan OL
42	NORBERG, Kyle. FB
26	O'BRIEN, Connor LB
5	OLIVEIRA, Brady. RB
21	PALMBORG, Tanner. LB
39	PAULSON, Derek TE
36	PINKE, Hunter. TE
49	POOLE, Keelan LB
29	RANDOLPH, Andre. DB
51	RASTAS, Jake. LB
8	REYES, Cole DB
58	RICHMAN, Corby LB
44	RODGERS, Donnell. LB
67	ROONEY, Patric. OL
70	RUSSO, Sean. OL
22	SANTIAGO, John RB
90	SCHMITZ, Nick. DL
23	SEIBEL, Josh. WR
81	STANLEY, Luke. WR
50	STEIGER, Andre LB
18	STEWART, Tamas. DB
75	STINER, Adam OL
78	STOCKWELL, A.J. OL
7	STUDSRUD, Keaton QB
4	TAUBENHEIM, Reid PK
65	TAYLOR, Demon. OL
57	THINGSTAD, Mike LB
62	TOBIN, Ryan OL
11	TOIVONEN, Travis WR
35	TUCKER, Vashon DB
15	TURNER, Jaxson LB
59	VOGEL, Hayden LB
31	WANZEK, Noah WR
52	WILSON, Carter DL
10	ZIMMERMAN, Andrew. QB



NORTH DAKOTA DEPTH CHART

2017 SPRING FOOTBALL

OFFENSE

»LEFT TACKLE

- 78 A.J. Stockwell (Sr., 6-7, 315)
- 79 Noah Mortel (RFr., 6-6, 275)
- 73 Bennett Helgren (RFr., 6-5, 290)

»LEFT GUARD

- 76 Dan Bell (Sr., 6-5, 310)
- 62 Ryan Tobin (RFr., 6-4, 280)

»CENTER

- 53 Grant Aplin (Jr., 6-1, 300)
- 67 Patric Rooney (So., 6-3, 275)
- 66 Nathan Nguon (RFr., 6-3, 285)

»RIGHT GUARD

- 65 Demon Taylor (Jr., 6-4, 310)
- 61 Brandon Miller (Sr., 6-5, 315)
- 63 Devan Hunt (RFr., 6-4, 295)

»RIGHT TACKLE

- 68 Bryce Blair (So., 6-4, 265)
- 70 Sean Russo (RFr., 6-6, 275)
- 73 Bennett Helgren (RFr., 6-5, 290)

»X RECEIVER

- 31 Noah Wanzek (So., 6-4, 190)
- 83 Carter Blackwell (So., 6-1, 180)

»FULLBACK

- 42 Kyle Norberg (Sr., 6-1, 240)
- 32 Brett Finke (RFr., 6-0, 235)

»QUARTERBACK

- 7 Keaton Studsrud (Sr., 6-1, 195)
- 9 Brad Heidlebaugh (So., 6-4, 220)
- 12 Ben Bolinske (RFr., 6-0, 185)
- 10 Andrew Zimmerman (So., 6-2, 195)

»TIGHT END

- 34 Luke Fielder (So., 6-5, 235)
- 88 Alex Cloyd (So., 6-4, 230)
- 36 Hunter Pinke (RFr., 6-5, 230)

»B RECEIVER

- 89 De'mun Mercer (Sr., 6-2, 200)
- 80 Chad Bartosh (Jr., 6-2, 195)
- 20 Easton Earbes (RFr., 6-0, 170)

»Z RECEIVER

- 11 Travis Toivonen (So., 6-4, 215)
- 23 Josh Seibel (Sr., 5-11, 175)
- 1 Cam McKinney (Fr., 5-9, 165)

»TAILBACK

- 22 John Santiago (Jr., 5-9, 170)
- 33 James Johanneson (So., 6-1, 230)
- 28 Austin Gordon (So., 5-9, 205)

DEFENSE

»OUTSIDE LINEBACKER (STRONG)

- 49 Keelan Poole (So., 6-2, 205)
- 21 Tanner Palmborg (Jr., 6-1, 205)
- 47 Ray Haas (RFr., 6-5, 200)

»LEFT END

- 43 Drew Greely (Sr., 6-3, 250)
- 52 Carter Wilson (So., 6-3, 225)

»NOSE

- 92 Tank Harris (So., 6-3, 300)
- 77 Steve Greer (Jr., 6-2, 275)
- 90 Nick Schmitz (Sr., 6-4, 280)

»RIGHT END

- 99 Brandon Dranka (Sr., 6-2, 240)
- 55 Mason Bennett (So., 6-4, 230)
- 98 Carl Engwall (So., 6-4, 265)

»OUTSIDE LINEBACKER (WEAK)

- 2 Jade Lawrence (So., 6-2, 200)
- 15 Jaxson Turner (RFr., 6-2, 200)

»INSIDE LINEBACKER (STRONG)

- 26 Connor O'Brien (Sr., 6-1, 225)
- 14 Jake Geier (RFr., 6-2, 200)
- 27 Oscar Nevermann (Sr., 6-1, 215)

»INSIDE LINEBACKER (WEAK)

- 44 Donnell Rodgers (So., 6-1, 215)
- 48 Jake Disterhaupt (Sr., 6-1, 210)
- 51 Jake Rastas (RFr., 6-2, 195)

»LEFT CORNERBACK

- 19 Deion Harris (Sr., 6-3, 190)
- 24 Garrett Bollant (Jr., 5-11, 175)

»STRONG

- 8 Cole Reyes (Sr., 6-2, 205)
- 25 Jordan Canady (RFr., 6-2, 185)
- 29 Andre Randolph (RFr., 6-0, 190)

»FREE SAFETY

- 17 Charles Flowers (Sr., 5-11, 180)
- 35 Vashon Tucker (Jr., 5-11, 190)

»RIGHT CORNERBACK

- 6 Evan Holm (So., 5-11, 180)
- 16 Torrey Hunt (So., 6-1, 185)
- 84 Tim Dulin (So., 6-4, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

»PUNTER

- 85 Austin Dussold (Sr., 6-2, 210)
- 94 Connor Bolduc (Jr., 6-3, 195)
- 97 Jacob Meeks (Sr., 6-0, 210)

»KICKER

- 4 Reid Taubenehim (Sr., 6-1, 195)

»LONG SNAPPER

- 82 Jacob Holmen (Sr., 6-2, 200)

INJURED

- 3 Tyus Carter (So., 5-11, 180)
- 5 Brady Oliveira (So., 5-10, 220)
- 18 Tamas Stewart (Jr., 6-0, 195)
- 38 Dijon Murray (Jr., 6-0, 225)
- 45 Cameron Hunt (RFr., 6-1, 210)
- 46 Tyler Coyne (Jr., 6-1, 230)
- 72 Mat Cox (Sr., 6-5, 300)
- 81 Luke Stanley (Jr., 6-4, 220)
- 87 Stetson Carr (Sr., 6-2, 200)
- 91 Austin Cieslak (Jr., 6-4, 290)

**will not participate or be limited during spring practices*



RETURNING IN 2017 ...

»OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (9)

OL Grant Aplin, OL Dan Bell, WR De'mun Mercer, FB Kyle Norberg, RB John Santiago, OL A.J. Stockwell, QB Keaton Studsrud, OL Demon Taylor, WR Noah Wanzek

»DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (6)

DE Brandon Dranka, CB Deion Harris, NG Tank Harris, CB Torrey Hunt, ILB Connor O'Brien, S Cole Reyes,

»SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS RETURNING (3)

P Austin Dussold, LS Jacob Holmen, PK Reid Taubenheim

»OFFENSIVE LETTERMEN RETURNING (22)

OL Grant Aplin, OL Dan Bell, OL Bryce Blair, WR Stetson Carr, TE Alex Cloyd, OL Mat Cox, WR Tim Dulin, TE Luke Fiedler, RB Austin Gordon, WR De'mun Mercer, OL Brandon Miller, FB Kyle Norberg, RB Brady Oliveira, OL Patric Rooney, RB John Santiago, WR Josh Seibel, WR Luke Stanley, OL A.J. Stockwell, QB Keaton Studsrud, OL Demon Taylor, WR Travis Toivonen, WR Noah Wanzek

»DEFENSIVE LETTERMEN RETURNING (19)

DE Mason Bennett, CB Garrett Bollant, DE Austin Cieslak, OLB Jake Disterhaupt, DE Brandon Dranka, S Charles Flowers, DE Drew Greely, NG Steve Greer, CB Deion Harris, NG Tank Harris, CB Evan Holm, CB Torrey Hunt, OLB Jade Lawrence, ILB Connor O'Brien, OLB Tanner Palmberg, S Cole Reyes, ILB Donnell Rodgers, NG Nick Schmitz, DE Carter Wilson

»SPECIAL TEAMS LETTERMEN (3)

P Austin Dussold, LS Jacob Holmen, PK Reid Taubenheim

»LETTERMEN LOST (13)

S Zach Arnell, ILB Dylan Bakker, QB Ryan Bartels, NG Alec Carrothers, OL Michael Coe, ILB Jake Hanson, OLB Jawon Johnson, DE Noah Johnson, OLB Brian Labat, TE Luke Mathewson, TE Joe Mollberg, WR Alex Reed, ILB Taj Rich

»PLAYERS REDSHIRTED LAST SEASON (19)

QB Ben Bolinske, S Jordan Canady, WR Easton Erbes, FB Brett Finke, ILB Jake Geier, OLB Ray Haas, OL Bennett Helgren, DE Colton Hessenflow, ILB Cameron Hunt, OL Devan Hunt, ILB Matt Marler, OL Noah Mortel, OL Nathan Nguon, TE Hunter Pinke, S Andre Randolph, ILB Jake Rastas, OL Sean Russo, OL Ryan Tobin, OLB Jaxson Turner

»MID-YEAR ADDITIONS (4)

RB James Johannesson, WR Cameron McKinney, S Tamas Stewart, QB Andrew Zimmerman

»NORTH DAKOTA BY CLASS

Seniors (24)

OL Dan Bell, WR Stetson Carr, OL Mat Cox, OLB Jake Disterhaupt, DE Brandon Dranka, P Austin Dussold, S Charles Flowers, DE Drew Greely, CB Deion Harris, LS Jacob Holmen, P Jacob Meeks, WR De'mun Mercer, OL Brandon Miller, ILB Dijon Murray, RB Oscar Nevermann, FB Kyle Norberg, ILB Connor O'Brien, S Cole Reyes, NG Nick Schmitz, WR Josh Seibel, OL A.J. Stockwell, QB Keaton Studsrud, PK Reid Taubenheim, ILB Mike Thingstad

Juniors (17)

OL Grant Aplin, WR Chad Bartosh, P Connor Bolduc, CB Garrett Bollant, CB Tyus Carter, DE Austin Cieslak, FB Tyler Coyne, TE Luke Fiedler, NG Steve Greer, NG Tank Harris, RB Brady Oliveira, OLB Tanner Palmberg, RB John Santiago, WR Luke Stanley, S Tamas Stewart, OL Adam Stiner, OL Demon Taylor

Sophomores (24)

TE Logan Alm, DE Mason Bennett, WR Carter Blackwell, OL Bryce Blair, TE Alex Cloyd, CB Tim Dulin, DE Carl Engwall, RB Austin Gordon, QB Brad Heidlebaugh, CB Evan Holm, CB Torrey Hunt, RB James Johannesson, OLB Jade Lawrence, OLB Keelan Poole, ILB Corby Richman, ILB Donnell Rodgers, OL Patric Rooney, OLB Andre Steiger, WR Travis Toivonen, S Vashon Tucker, OLB Hayden Vogel, WR Noah Wanzek, DE Carter Wilson, QB Andrew Zimmerman

Redshirt Freshmen (21)

QB Ben Bolinske, S Jordan Canady, ILB Christian Comstock, WR Easton Erbes, FB Brett Finke, ILB Jake Geier, OLB Ray Haas, OL Bennett Helgren, DE Colton Hessenflow, ILB Cameron Hunt, OL Devan Hunt, ILB Matt Marler, OL Noah Mortel, OL Nathan Nguon, TE Derek Paulson, TE Hunter Pinke, S Andre Randolph, ILB Jake Rastas, OL Sean Russo, OL Ryan Tobin, OLB Jaxson Turner

Freshmen (1)

WR Cameron McKinney

»GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

Alabama (1)

CB Torrey Hunt

California (3)

S Charles Flowers, DE Colton Hessenflow, S Tamas Stewart

Colorado (5)

OL Bryce Blair, CB Tyus Carter, OLB Ray Haas, OLB Keelan Poole, OL Sean Russo

Delaware (1)

S Vashon Tucker

Florida (1)

TE Luke Fiedler

Illinois (6)

DE Brandon Dranka, NG Tank Harris, FB Kyle Norberg, ILB Connor O'Brien, S Cole Reyes, OLB Andre Steiger

Indiana (2)

ILB Cameron Hunt, S Andre Randolph

Louisiana (2)

WR De'mun Mercer, ILB Dijon Murray

Manitoba (2)

DE Mason Bennett, RB Brady Oliveira

Michigan (1)

WR Tim Dulin

Minnesota (27)

TE Logan Alm, OL Grant Aplin, P Connor Bolduc, ILB Christian Comstock, FB Tyler Coyne, OLB Jake Disterhaupt, DE Carl Engwall, WR Easton Erbes, ILB Jake Geier, RB Austin Gordon, DE Drew Greely, CB Deion Harris, OL Bennett Helgren, CB Evan Holm, OL Devan Hunt, OLB Jade Lawrence, OL Nathan Nguon, OLB Tanner Palmberg, ILB Donnell Rodgers, OL Patric Rooney, RB John Santiago, OL A.J. Stockwell, QB Keaton Studsrud, PK Reid Taubenheim, WR Travis Toivonen, OLB Jaxson Turner, OLB Hayden Vogel

Mississippi (1)

P Jacob Meeks

Missouri (3)

P Austin Dussold, NG Steve Greer, OL Demon Taylor

North Dakota (15)

WR Chad Bartosh, WR Carter Blackwell, QB Ben Bolinske, WR Stetson Carr, DE Austin Cieslak, LS Jacob Holmen, RB James Johannesson, QB Brad Heidlebaugh, ILB Matt Marler, TE Hunter Pinke, ILB Corby Richman, NG Nick Schmitz, WR Josh Seibel, ILB Mike Thingstad, WR Noah Wanzek

Nebraska (1)

TE Alex Cloyd

Ontario (1)

DE Carter Wilson

Sweden (1)

RB Oscar Nevermann

Texas (1)

WR Cameron McKinney

Washington (2)

OL Mat Cox, QB Andrew Zimmerman

Wisconsin (11)

OL Dan Bell, CB Garrett Bollant, S Jordan Canady, OL, FB Brett Finke, Brandon Miller, OL Noah Mortel, TE Derek Paulson, ILB Jake Rastas, WR Luke Stanley, OL Adam Stiner, OL Ryan Tobin



PREVIEW

The 2016 season was arguably the most memorable for the North Dakota football program since moving to the Division I level. In their ninth season at the FCS level, the Fighting Hawks accomplished a number of special feats. There was the program's first Big Sky Conference championship thanks to a perfect 8-0 league record. There was the program's first FCS Playoff berth and a No. 7 national seed. The Fighting Hawks' finished with nine wins, which were the most for the program since making the move to the FCS prior to the 2008 season.

So what is reigning Big Sky Coach of the Year Bubba Schweigert's focus entering the 2017 spring season? "We want to get better," he said. "We accomplished some great things last season, but we left the field for the final time with a real bad taste in our mouths. We were proud of advancing to the FCS playoffs, but our goal and vision for this program is to advance in the playoffs, and, ultimately, be one of the top teams competing for a national title every season. We have a lot of work to do to get to that point."

That work started in the weight room just a couple days after that last-second loss to Richmond in the second round of the FCS playoffs. It has continued throughout the winter with individual workouts and conditioning and the Fighting Hawks get the chance to return to the field for 15 practices starting in early March. The first of those will take place Friday, March 3 at the High Performance Center and the sessions will conclude with the team's annual Spring Game on Friday, April 14.

OFFENSE

The Fighting Hawks will have nine starters back from an offense that averaged nearly 30 points and 400 total yards per game a season ago. More than half of those yards came on the ground as the All-Big Sky Conference tandem of **John Santiago** and **Brady Oliveira** combined for 1,880 yards and 17 touchdowns as sophomores. Santiago collected first team accolades for the second-straight season after rushing for a team-high 983 yards and seven touchdowns, while Oliveira grabbed third-team honors after posting 897 rushing yards and a team-high 10 rushing scores.

Joining Oliveira and Santiago in the backfield this spring will be Minnesota transfer **James Johannesson**. The former Fargo South standout will have three seasons of eligibility remaining for the Fighting Hawks. A prep standout, Johannesson rushed for 6,158 yards and 81 touchdowns en route to back-to-back North Dakota Gatorade Player of the Year honors and will provide another weapon for a backfield that is already one of the most dynamic in the Football Championship Subdivision.

"John and Brady have played a lot of football for us and are both still young backs that have room to improve," Schweigert said. "Our challenge for them is to keep them working hard to become complete backs. With James, we add a big, power back to the mix and we'll take a hard look at him this spring to find the best ways he can help our football team."

The offenses' total yards and point production increased for the third-straight season under coordinator **Paul Rudolph**, while quarterback **Keaton Studsrud** guided those efforts on the field. The junior captain threw for a career-high 2,027 yards and 14 touchdowns, while only tossing two interceptions in 11 starts. Studsrud also added five ground scores and guided double-digit, fourth-quarter comebacks in wins over South Dakota and Northern Arizona a season ago.

With Studsrud embarking on his final collegiate season, Schweigert said one of the points of emphasis this spring will be to improve the depth at the quarterback position.

Sophomore **Brad Heidlebaugh**, who threw a touchdown pass on his only attempt of the season in a win over Weber State, last season, along with newcomer **Andrew Zimmerman** and redshirt freshman **Ben Bolinske** will push Studsrud and look to bolster the stable of signal callers Rudolph has under his watch.

"We know what we have with Keaton and we want these young guys to really push him and improve our depth," Schweigert said. "We've seen Brad and Ben start to develop and get better and we're excited to see Zimmerman out on our practice field. He has a strong arm, good mobility and will make us a better football team. All of those guys have to be ready to go."

Those players catching the passes from the quarterbacks took big strides in 2016, but it's another position where Schweigert said the emphasis has to be on consistent improvement across the board. "We had two young guys step up and perform well as freshman. **De'mun Mercer** really emerged late in the season and you saw him get more and more comfortable with our offense," Schweigert said. "**Luke Stanley** and **Josh Seibel** were both slowed by injuries some last season, but are veteran guys we can count on.

"I like our depth at wide receiver and we'll get a chance to see what (newcomer) **Cam McKinney** can do for us out on the



edge. We have better numbers at that position, but think those guys can get even better and this spring will be a chance for that unit to do just that.”

Those two young guys Schweigert was referring too made an immediate impact as true freshmen. **Travis Toivonen** led the team with 39 catches for 433 yards, while classmate **Noah Wanzek** was fourth on the team with 25 receptions and 367 yards. Both players had three touchdown receptions during their rookie seasons. Mercer, a Texas State transfer, ended up being a big play threat late in the season. He had 28 receptions on the campaign and led the team with 553 receiving yards and four touchdown.

Stanley was the team’s leading receiver when he was injured at Idaho State (Oct. 22). The 6-foot-4 wideout missed the next three games before returning in a limited role in the playoff loss to Richmond. Seibel played in the final seven games of the season following a spring injury and had seven catches for 54 yards. His lone touchdown was a big one as it came in the 28-21 win against Idaho State.

Junior **Luke Fiedler** has a chance to take over the starting tight end role after gaining experience as a reserve in the previous two seasons behind the now departed **Luke Mathewson**. Fiedler led that unit with 11 catches for 95 yards and had his first collegiate touchdown in the comeback win over Northern Arizona (Nov. 12). “We want Luke to take that next step,” Schweigert said. “He needs to stay healthy and be more consistent. We’ve been pleased with his winter workouts.”

Pushing Fielder for playing time will be a pair of young tight ends. Sophomore **Alex Cloyd** saw some action as a true freshman and along with redshirt freshman **Hunter Pinke** will get plenty of reps to develop and show the coaching staff what they can do this spring.

Senior **Kyle Norberg** is a veteran that really settled into the fullback role a season ago after seeing time as a running back and linebacker earlier in his career. He finished with 22 carries for 130 yards and a touchdown, while also serving as a physical run-blocking presence for his running backs. “We’re pleased with the progress Kyle has made at fullback and **Brett Finke** is going to have an opportunity to show us what he can do this spring. He’s another physical player that we think can help our run game out.”

Another area where Schweigert would like to see more consistency in 2017 is up front along the offensive line. Senior **A.J. Stockwell** returns to his left tackle spot for the third-consecutive year, while classmate **Mat Cox** is still recovering from a season-ending injury suffered at Montana State (Sept. 29) and will not participate in spring drills. However, the prospects look good for him to return to the field by fall camp and work his way back into the right tackle spot where he started the first four games of the 2016 season.

“With Cox still out, there will be an opportunity for **Byrce Blair** to continue and develop at both tackle spots. He got to play some towards the end of last year and we liked what we saw from him. Both Bryce and redshirt freshman **Noah Mortel** should get some quality reps at tackle this spring.”

Dan Bell and **Demon Taylor** return for the 2017 season after getting their first seasons as a starter under their belts at right guard and left guard, respectively. Bell, a rising senior, started all 12 games, while Taylor, who will be a junior, received 11 starting nods. Those two are going to be pushed for playing time, however, as **Brandon Miller** returns to health and has previous starting experience at right guard (three games in 2015) and redshirt freshman **Ryan Tobin** will also be in the mix after impressing the staff during his scout team work in 2016.

“Those guys need to keep improving,” Schweigert said. “In order for us to play offensive football how we would like, there needs to be more consistency from that group and that is really going to be our focus this spring.”

RETURNING STARTERS (OFFENSE)

WR	De’mun Mercer (28 rec., 553 yds, 4 TDs)
WR	Noah Wanzek (25 rec., 367 yds, 3 TDs)
RB	John Santiago (983 rush yds, 7 TDs)
FB	Kyle Norberg (130 rush yds)
QB	Keaton Studsrud (2,027 pass yds, 14 TDs)
OL	Grant Aplin (center, 8 starts)
OL	Dan Bell (right guard, 12 starts)
OL	Demon Taylor (left guard, 11 starts)
OL	A.J. Stockwell (left tackle, 12 starts)



89 De’mun MERCER



Junior **Grant Aplin** started the final seven games at center a season ago and returns along with sophomore **Patric Rooney**, who also got a start at the position as a redshirt freshman in 2016. "Both of those young men have some experience to lean on from last season and we're excited to see what **Nathan Nguon** can do at that spot this spring. We want to have great competition at all of our positions and we think the O-Line is really going to benefit from the young guys we have pushing our veterans."

DEFENSE

The defensive side of the ball is where the Fighting Hawks will have some holes to fill as the unit that led the Big Sky in scoring defense (22.0 ppg) and rushing defense (91.3 ypg) will have to replace five starters.

There is good news, however, as the cupboard is far from bare, especially in the defensive backfield. Safety **Cole Reyes** earned six different All-America accolades and will be the reigning Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year when UND hits the field for its 2017 season opener at Utah (Aug. 31). Reyes finished with 70 tackles and three interceptions, while also breaking up eight passes.

"Obviously, Cole had a great junior season, but his challenge this spring will be to stay sharp with his knowledge of our defense and lead the guys on that side of the ball," Schweigert said.

The first team All-Big Sky performer is joined in the secondary by fellow All-American **Deion Harris**, who led the Big Sky with five interceptions and returned three of those for touchdowns from his cornerback position. Harris started all 12 games and finished with 14 passes defended. At the other cornerback position, **Torrey Hunt** added 13 passes defended and was one of four secondary players with three or more interceptions.

Hunt started the final nine games of the season after **Tyus Carter** was lost for the season before Big Sky play began. Carter will be back on the field for spring drills, but in a limited capacity.

The Fighting Hawks led the FCS with 20 interceptions, but Schweigert thinks they can be even better in 2017. "Our secondary has great potential, but there are several areas that we can improve on, whether it be our plays on the ball, better in one-on-one situations and not giving up big chunk plays. There are several young guys in those positions that need to take that next step," Schweigert added. "This will be a big spring for guys like **Jordan Canady**, **Evan Holm**, **Andre Randolph** and **Vashon Tucker**."

Canady, Randolph and Tucker will be vying for time at safety, while Holm saw some action as a true freshman at cornerback. Holm finished with 16 tackles, an interception and two pass break-ups.

The linebacker unit is where defensive coordinator **Eric Schmidt** will have to fill the biggest voids as three of last year's four starters all graduated. Two of those losses come at outside linebacker where **Brian Labat** and **Jawon Johnson** both totalled 40-plus tackles and started all 12 games.

"This will be a big spring for our outside linebackers. With Labat and Johnson both gone, we will need several young guys to really take advantage of the number of reps they will get," Schweigert said. "We liked what we saw from **Jade Lawrence** a year ago. He proved he can make plays for us. We have a couple of redshirts in **Jaxson Turner** and **Ray Haas** that are really athletic. We feel like they have the skills to really make a difference on our defense and look forward to see how far they have progressed in our system."

Senior **Connor O'Brien** and sophomore **Donnell Rodgers** return at inside linebacker, but those two will see several new faces in their meeting room this spring. Those new faces will hopefully bolster depth at a

RETURNING STARTERS (DEFENSE)

LDE	Brandon Dranka (18 tackles, 6.5 TFLs)
NG	Tank Harris (28 tackles, 1.5 TFLs)
ILB	Connor O'Brien (67 tackles, 6.0 TFLs)
FS	Cole Reyes (70 tackles, 3 INTs, 8 PBU's)
LCB	Deion Harris (36 tackles, 5 INTs, 9 PBU's)
RCB	Torrey Hunt (46 tackles, 3 INTs, 10 PBU's)



26 Connor O'BRIEN



position that boasted the team's leading tackler a year ago in **Dylan Bakker**, who collected 98 tackles and earned second-team All-Big Sky honors as a senior.

O'Brien has started 18 straight games for the Fighting Hawks since moving into the starting role and Rodgers played in all 12 games as a reserve in 2016. Those two combined for 105 tackles and helped anchor the Big Sky's best run defense.

Those players making the position change to inside linebacker include senior **Jake Disterhaupt** (outside linebacker), senior **Oscar Nevermann** (running back) and redshirt freshman **Jake Geier** (safety). "Jake Disterhaupt is a smart player that has played a lot of football for us and we think his athleticism is going to translate well to inside backer," Schweigert said. "We also like the athleticism and toughness that Oscar Nevermann and Jake Geier will provide at the position."

One of the deepest positions on the team is the defensive line and that unit will be anchored by a trio of upperclassmen with starting experience. At defensive end, seniors **Brandon Dranka** and **Drew Greely** return, while junior **Tank Harris** emerged as one of the top nose guards in the Big Sky in 12 starts as a sophomore.

Dranka has started 26 consecutive games for the Fighting Hawks, while Greely has collected six starts throughout his career. Dranka's 6.5 tackles for loss are tops among the returners and Greely led UND in sacks with four a year ago. "Dranka and Greely are both experienced players, but as always, we're going to challenge them to improve their games and get better," Schweigert said.

Harris finished 2016 with a career-high 28 tackles and he will be joined in the trenches by classmate **Steve Greer** and senior **Nick Schmitz**. Greer picked up two sacks in an injury-shortened season, while Schmitz also added a sack as both players saw action in seven games.

"We've been excited about Tank's progress, but we're going to challenge him this spring to take that next step to be a more dominant force inside for us," Schweigert said. "Steve Greer needs to become a more consistent performer. That's really our goal with him this spring. With Nick Schmitz, we feel like there are three guys at the nose guard position that can really help our defense."

Pushing Dranka and Greely at defensive end will be a trio of sophomores. "**Mason Bennett** and **Carter Wilson** got on the field some last year, showed that they are athletic and can make plays," Schweigert said. "We want to see them become more physical players and create some solid depth for us at defensive end for the season."

Sophomore **Carl Engwall** is another player from that same class as Bennett and Wilson that was nicked up some last year, but will be back on the field this spring. Junior **Austin Cieslak** will be ready for the fall, but is sitting out the spring session with an injury.

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Here's a look at the players making position changes this spring:

No.	Name	Old	New
14	Jake Geier	S	ILB
21	Tanner Palmborg	S	OLB
27	Oscar Nevermann	RB	ILB
48	Jake Disterhaupt	OLB	ILB
84	Tim Dulin	WR	CB
93	Logan Alm	DL	TE

SPECIAL TEAMS

Seniors **Austin Dussold**, **Jacob Holmen** and **Reid Taubenheim** are all back to fill the positions they held down as juniors in 2016.

Dussold averaged 42.1 yards per punt in his first season at UND after transferring from Missouri S&T. He downed 24 punts inside the 20-yard line and added 12 of 50-plus yards. His 42.4 yards per punt in the regular season was the sixth-best, single-season effort in program history.

Holmen has been a mainstay at long snapper throughout his career and has started 34 consecutive games, handling both long and short snaps.

Taubenheim has made 45 career field goals in three seasons as a starter. That total is tied for fifth most in UND history. He converted on 16-of-25 attempts in 2016.

"We obviously like the experience we have back among our specialists. They are all seniors that we expect to keep working hard to improve their craft," Schweigert said.

