



PROCLAMATION



Congratulating Northern Illinois University President Lisa Freeman and the Northern Illinois University Huskie Football Team, Coaches, and Athletic Director on Their Exciting and Historic Victory Over Notre Dame on September 7, 2024.

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University (NIU) is a world-class, research-focused public institution that attracts students from across Illinois, the country, and the world with over 250,000 alumni worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its seven (7) degree-granting colleges with over 40 academic departments, NIU features a robust array of intercollegiate athletic programs for men and women; and

WHEREAS, the NIU Football Huskies are a member of the Mid-American Conference and Division I bowl division of the NCAA, and have appeared in 16 Division I-A and College Division Bowl Games; and

WHEREAS, until September 7, 2024, the NIU Football Huskies were 0-14 all-time against opponents ranked in the top 10 of the AP Top 25 poll; and

WHEREAS, NIU Football had not won a nonconference victory against a ranked opponent since a 19-16 upset of No. 21 Alabama in 2003; and

WHEREAS, NIU won a stunning victory against No. 5-ranked Notre Dame in South Bend on September 7, 2024, by a score of 16-14; and

WHEREAS, the Huskie win was the 19th "Boneyard Win" in school history. Boneyard Wins are victories over power conference, ranked teams and notable independents (ND, BYU). NIU's last Boneyard Win was last season over Boston College in the season opener (NIU has three Boneyard wins under head coach Thomas Hammock since 2021); and

WHEREAS, after its historic win over Notre Dame to put its season record at 2-0, NIU entered the Associated Press Top 25 rankings for the first time since December 8, 2013, coming in at No. 25.

WHEREAS, the NIU victory was not luck, but the result of dominant and tough defense, exciting and dramatic offense, heroic coaching, and a will to win that defied all the odds.

THEREFORE, I, Cohen Barnes, as Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 7, 2024, as NIU Football Day in the City of DeKalb and encourage all DeKalb citizens to Cheer for our Huskies!



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb affixed this 9th day of September 2024.

COHEN BARNES, Mayor