

2013 MVC Tournament – Game Notes – St. Louis, Mo.

Game 3, 12 p.m., Fri., March 8, Scottrade Center ... #1 Creighton Bluejays (65) vs. #9 Drake Bulldogs (53)



CREIGHTON'S WIN moves the Bluejays to 25-7 for the season and into Saturday's 1:35 p.m. semifinal test against the winner of the Evansville-Indiana State quarterfinal. CU is 41-20 in the MVC Tourney (5-2 vs. Drake), 94-59 all-time vs. Drake (2-1 this year), 9-1 as the top seed and 19-12 in the quarterfinals. CU has won three in a row and eliminates Drake in the quarterfinals for the second year in a row. Coach Greg McDermott is 77-29 in his third year at CU and 357-224 in his 19th season overall as a college head coach. He is 10-5 in the MVC Tournament, 5-2 in the quarterfinals, 15-7 vs. Drake all-time, 5-1 at CU in the MVC Tourney, and 6-2 vs. Drake while at Creighton.

Drake falls 15-17 for the season, seeing its MVC tourney mark slip to 17-34; 2-2 as No. 9 seed. Coach Mark Phelps is 77-86 in his fifth year at Drake, 3-5 in the MVC Tournament and 0-2 vs. Creighton in the tourney.

First Half: The first half was a contrast to the two previous CU-DU meetings, each of which saw the home team take a double-digit lead; CU in Omaha (49-25) and DU in Des Moines (44-28). After early ties today at 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12, CU had a 10-1 run to go ahead 22-13, with Will Artino getting five points in the burst. Artino had four offensive rebounds as CU had a 9-0 edge in second-chance points. Doug McDermott scored 10 points in a 3:24 span from the 5-5 tie into a 17-12 lead. Creighton went 5:07 without a FG, enabling Drake to go on a 10-2 run to pull within 24-23 with 5:49 left on a three-point play by Ben Simons. McDermott hit a free throw with 4:43 to play to tie Rodney Buford's (1995-99) CU career scoring mark at 2,117 points. CU moved its lead to 29-23 but a three-point play by Seth VanDeest made it 29-26. McDermott hit a layup with 1:23 left to set the new CU career point mark. Ethan Wragge added two free throws as CU edged ahead 33-26 at halftime. CU is 19-1 when leading at halftime.

Second Half: CU pushed its lead to double digits for the first time with 13:41 to play on two free throws by Artino to make it 45-35. Drake took twice as many shots as Creighton (20 to 9) in the first 10 minutes of the second half, with CU committing nine turnovers after just five TO's in the entire first half. DU had a 7-0 run to get within 45-42 with 10:30 left but a three-point play by Gregory Echenique and a driving layup by McDermott pushed CU's lead back to eight at 54-46 with eight minutes left, and then to 60-46 at the 6:11 mark after a trey by McDermott and another three-point play by Echenique. Drake was stuck on 46 points for 7:03 in a total CU scoring run of 12-0 and CU stayed in front by double digits the rest of the way. Creighton outrebounded Drake 22-13 in each half for a final game margin of 44-26.

CREIGHTON NOTES: Doug McDermott passed Rodney Buford (2,116 points, 1995-99) as the CU career scoring leader with his 13th point today and also moved into 10th in MVC career scoring. McDermott finished with 23 points to push his record career total to 2,129. McDermott has enjoyed 53 career 20-plus scoring games in 106 games at CU, with 23 this season. It's his first vs. Drake this season. Will Artino's 14 points was a career high and marked his fifth double-figure point game this season. This was the 11th time this season CU has had more turnovers than assists (11-17). Echenique moved into 10th on the MVC career list for blocked shots at 164 with 6 today, which ranks second on MVC tourney single game list. The record is 10 by Benoit Benjamin of CU (1984 vs. Illinois State). Gregory Echenique has 17 career double-doubles including 6 this season, and 26 double-figure rebound games, with 7 this season. CU's bench outscored Drake bench 19-6, rebounding from previous meeting vs. DU when Bulldog reserves outscored CU bench 43-14 on way to 74-69 DU win.

DRAKE NOTES: Richard Carter shot .619 (13/21) from the field in his last two games vs. CU for a total of 34 points. Jordan Clarke had his 13th double figure rebound game, finishing with 10 boards. Drake closed the season with 279 three-point baskets which is No. 3 on school single-season charts. Ben Simons closes his career with 1,363 points (8th on Drake career scoring list) and 233 treys (4th on Drake career list).