

2013 MVC Men's Basketball Tournament, Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Mo.

Game 6, March 8, 8:30 pm, #6 Illinois State Redbirds (73) vs. #3 UNI Panthers (65)

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Illinois State's win moves the Redbirds into Saturday's 4 p.m. semifinal game against second-seeded Wichita State. The Redbirds moved to 18-14 this season (1-2 vs. UNI), 38-27 in MVC tourney play (6-3 vs. UNI) and into the MVC semifinals for the second year in a row. Illinois State has an all-time 36-28 series edge over UNI. ISU is 21-7 in the MVC quarterfinals. Dan Muller is 18-14 in his first year at ISU and overall as a college head coach and is 1-0 in the MVC tourney.

UNI falls to 18-14 for the year and 16-18 in the MVC tourney. Coach Ben Jacobson is 147-85 in his seventh year at UNI and overall as a college head coach. He is 12-6 vs. ISU, 7-5 in the MVC tourney, 1-3 vs. ISU in the tourney and 3-4 in quarterfinals. Since winning the 2010 MVC tourney UNI has lost three straight quarterfinal games.

First Half: Illinois State hit 5/6 treys and its first 6/9 from the field to run out to leads of 10-0 and 19-6 the first five minutes of the game. Tyler Brown led the Redbird charge with 4/4 for three-point range. UNI closed to within 19-11 but ISU shoved its edge back to 15 at 26-11 on a trey by Brown with 9:22 left. UNI then went on a 16-2 run over a five minute-span to close to within 28-27 of the Redbirds. Deon Mitchell was 4/4 and scored eight straight points in 2:22 in the Panthers' run. UNI drew even at 30-30 for its first tie of the game and took a 32-30 lead with 2:40 left in the half on a layup by James. Marc Sonnen hit a trey from the right corner with a minute left to give UNI a 35-34 halftime lead after a 24-8 run to close the half. UNI is 17-2 when ahead at the half. The half was a long-range shootout with Brown 5/7 from long range to lead ISU's 6 treys while Sonnen had 3 treys and James and Matt Bohannon nailed 2 each as UNI was 7/13 from long range. After getting 19 points the first 4:53 of the game, ISU scored just 15 the last 15 minutes of the half, going 1/9 from long range after the fast start.

Second Half Notes: ISU first retook the lead in the second half at 40-39 with 18:20 left in the game. UNI was on top 42-40 and 44-42 but ISU went up TO STAY on a trey by Jon Ekey and a three-point play by Jackie Carmichael with 14:02 left. The Redbirds stretched their advantage to 60-50 with 7:03 to play. UNI cut the gap to 60-56 as Sonnen nailed a trey and Jake Koch had a three-point play. UNI hung within 62-60 as neither team scored for two and a half minutes and ISU then got two quick FGs from Tyler Brown for a 66-60 edge with a minute left. Four straight free throws made it 70-60 with half a minute left and UNI got only as close as six in the final minute. There were a total of three ties and 6 lead changes in the game.

UNI Notes: Anthony James drilled three treys to give himself 31 for the year after collecting a total of eight in two previous wins over ISU. Marc Sonnen played his 135th career game, tying Johnny Moran (2008-12) for the most games played all-time by a Panther. Jake Koch played in his 134th game for third on the list. Sonnen had 4 treys tonight and 86 for the year for the best season total in UNI history. After getting 19 and 15 points in two previous games vs. ISU, Seth Tuttle was scoreless in tonight's first half and finished with four points. This is the first time in 12 MVC tourney games in St. Louis a team has scored as many as 70 against a Ben Jacobson UNI team.

Illinois State Notes: Tyler Brown's 6 treys are the most in an MVC tourney game since Champ Oguchi of Illinois State had six vs. Creighton in 2009. This is Brown's 15th 20-point game of the season and 23rd of his career. Jackie Carmichael's 10 rebounds and 15 points gave him 15 double-doubles this season and 35 for his career and 16 double-figure rebound games this season and 38 for his career. Carmichael has moved into second in all-time MVC tourney blocked shots with 18 with 5 tonight. Benoit Benjamin of Creighton has the record at 21. ISU just missed getting double doubles from three players as Brown had 28 points and nine boards and Johnny Hill finished with 11 points and nine rebounds. Hill tied his season/career rebound high.

Tonight's Attendance of 14,004 ranks fifth in tourney history for the quarterfinal evening session.