

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

G4, 2:35 pm, Fri., March 8, Scottrade Ctr: #5 Indiana St. Sycamores (51) vs. #4 Evansville Purple Aces (50)



**INDIANA STATE'S WIN** moves the Sycamores to 18-13 on the season (2-1 vs. UE) and into Saturday's 1:35 p.m. semifinal matchup vs. top-seeded Creighton. ISU's MVC tourney record is 22-28. Coach Greg Lansing is 56-42 in his third season at ISU and overall as a college head coach and is 5-3 vs. Evansville and 5-1 in the MVC tourney. The Sycamores are now 82-77 vs. Evansville.

**Evansville falls** to 18-14, snapping a four-game winning streak. UE has lost five of its last six against ISU, dating back to 2011. Evansville's record in the MVC Tournament slips to 5-19; 2-12 in quarterfinal games. Marty Simmons sees his six-year record at Evansville move to 85-102 including a 1-6 MVC Tournament mark with his overall collegiate career mark falling to 183-175 in 12 years as a head coach.

**First Half:** The first half was close throughout, with one tie and five lead changes. The biggest lead either team had was UE by four at 4-0 and 16-12. UE's last lead was 23-22 before ISU scored five straight points and took a 27-25 lead at the intermission. Evansville led at the half in the two previous meetings this season. ISU is 12-2 when leading at the half this season. ISU's top two scorers for the season—Jake Odum and Manny Arop---were both scoreless in the first half and were a combined 0/5 from the floor. It's the first time this year the two have both been scoreless in a first half. ISU's Devonte Brown led both teams in points at the half with 11, surpassing the eight he scored in the past two meetings with UE, and he scored 11 of ISU's last 13 points of the half over the final 5:32 minutes. This is the first time in 12 games UE has failed to hit a trey in the first half.

**Second Half:** A tip-in by Justin Gant with 14 minutes left gave ISU the biggest lead for either team at 37-31 but UE answered with its first three-pointer of the game (after six straight misses) as Ned Cox hit to keep the Aces within three. Jake Kitchell then scored two straight layups to push the Sycamores ahead by seven at 41-34 with 12:46 remaining. Indiana State took its first double-digit lead at 44-34. ISU made 5/6 shots to trigger the 12-3 run that produced the 10-point edge. UE came right back with a 11-2 run to close to within a point at 46-45 with 7:14 to play, led by two treys from D.J. Balentine. Taylor scored on a loose-ball follow underneath and added a free throw to give UE its first lead of the half with 6:24 left at 48-46 for a 14-2 UE run. RJ Mahurin's basket tied the game at 48-48. Arop's two free throws made it 50-48 but Balentine hit a short jumper for a 50-50 tie at the three-minute mark. The teams swapped empty possessions into the final minute and Troy Taylor got fouled missing a reverse layup with 22.8 seconds left, and missed both free throws. ISU got the ball back and Jake Odum dished to Justin Gant who was fouled missing a short jumper with 2.5 seconds left. Gant made the second free throw. Cox tried a driving layup from the left side but Devonte Brown blocked the shot at the final buzzer.

**EVANSVILLE NOTES:** UE and ISU had a two-point game in 2011 in their last meeting in the MVC tourney, with ISU winning 52-50. Colt Ryan had 8 points, all in the first half, and saw an end to his string of 20 straight double-figure scoring games. Ryan was 4/18 from the floor. Ryan missed all nine of his second half FG attempts. Ryan had gone to the foul line in 24 straight games but did not attempt a FT today. This was only the eighth game this season in which Ryan did not hit a three-point FG. Troy Taylor had his 15<sup>th</sup> career double-figure rebound game (6 this season) as he pulled down 10.

**INDIANA STATE NOTES:** Manny Arop returned to the ISU lineup after being suspended for the Sycamores' final two regular season games. Jake Kitchell equaled the nine points he had in the first two UE-ISU games combined, in the process matching his career high. Devonte Brown's 11 points all came in the first half. ISU's 51 points are a season low for the Sycamores.

**Today's attendance of 14,567** is the second highest for the afternoon quarterfinal session in MVC tourney history. The best was 15,186 in 2007 (SIU-Drake and Bradley-UNI).