

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

Game 8, 4:05 p.m., Sat., Mar. 9, Scottrade Ctr., #2 Wichita State (66) vs. #6 Illinois State Redbirds (51)



Wichita State's win moves the Shockers into Sunday's MVC tourney title game vs. top-seeded Creighton. It's the fifth WSU title game and first since finishing runner-up in 2010 to UNI (67-52 loss). The Shockers are 26-7 for the season (3-0 vs. ISU) and 27-31 in the MVC tourney (4-5 vs. ISU). WSU trails 37-36 in the all-time series vs. ISU. Coach Gregg Marshall is 135-68 in his sixth season at WSU, 329-151 in his 15th season overall as a college head coach, 7-5 in the MVC tourney and 2-2 in the MVC semis. Marshall is 2-1 vs. ISU in the MVC Tournament and 10-5 vs. Redbirds overall.

Illinois State falls to 18-15. The Redbirds are 38-28 all-time in the MVC tourney, and 10-11 in semifinal games. Coach Dan Muller is 18-15 in his first season at ISU and overall as a college head coach, is 0-3 vs. WSU and 1-1 in MVC tourney.

First Half: ISU missed its first 8 shots, had three turnovers and got outrebounded 11-3 as WSU went ahead 15-0 the first 6:17 before Jackie Carmichael got ISU on the board with a FT. Malcolm Armstead had four points and three steals in the Shockers' start. It was 12 minutes into the game before ISU got its first FG as Tyler Brown got a steal and a layup to score with 7:25 in the half and cut the WSU edge to 22-8. ISU had missed its first 14 shots, committed five turnovers and was outrebounded 21-9 at that point. Jon Ekey and Nick Zeisloft followed with threes, and Carmichael had two baskets to move ISU within 22-19 with 3:22 left in the half. ISU's 16-0 run came in a WSU scoring drought of 6:48 minutes. Zeisloft's second three got ISU a 22-22 tie with 1:32 left in the half, and Carmichael hit a jumper with 30 seconds left to give ISU its first lead at 24-23. Fred VanVleet hit a long three with 0:06 on the clock to give WSU its 26-24 lead at the half. Armstead was 4/6 from the floor with a three and totaled nine points for WSU the first half. After missing its first 14 shots, ISU was 7/9 from the floor to close out the half and VanVleet's three was WSU's only basket the last 7:56 of the half. VanVleet hit his only other shot to finish the half 2/2 for five points. WSU is 18-1 when leading at halftime this season.

Second Half: ISU got a three from Tyler Brown to retake the lead at the start of the half but Carl Hall went to work for WSU with eight points over the next four minutes as the Shockers move in front 36-33. The Redbirds would make only a free throw the next three and a half minutes as WSU opened its biggest lead of the half at 45-34 with 12:28 to play. ISU was back within 10 at 48-40 before the Shockers moved their margin to 17 at 63-46 with three minutes to play and Illinois State got no closer than 12 from then until the final horn.

WICHITA STATE NOTES: WSU, the MVC's top rebounding team, dominated the boards 24-14 in the first half as Malcolm Armstead had 6. Armstead had 28 points, 11 rebounds and 4 steals the first two meetings with ISU this season. Armstead today finished with 15 points and 9 rebounds. WSU's top two scorers Cleanthony Early (14.5) and Carl Hall (12.4) combined for just five points the first half. Fred VanVleet today was 3/5 shoot for 8 points. Hall came on strong in the second half to finish with 16 points on 7/10 shooting. Five Shockers had 6 or more rebounds today, led by Armstead's 9.

ILLINOIS STATE NOTES: WSU is the only MVC school ISU did not beat this season. Illinois State had two of its three lowest-scoring first halves of the season vs. Wichita, with 20 Jan. 16 at Wichita and 24 today. This was ISU's lowest game point total this season. ISU's .291 FG% was the Redbirds' lowest of the season. The previous low was .328 at Wichita Jan. 16. Previous low was 55 at Missouri State Jan. 8. Jackie Carmichael had three blocked shots, for 21 in MVC tourney play, to stay in second all-time in that department behind Benoit Benjamin of Creighton whose record is 23. Carmichael extends his career school record for blocks to 200. Carmichael had his 75th career double-digit scoring game, 29 this season, with 22 points. Today's 22 points pushed his ISU career scoring total to 1,580 for 8th on the Redbird all-time list. Carmichael fouled out today for the first time this season. In two tourney games this year, Carmichael averaged 18.5 points, 7.5 rebounds and 4.0 blocks. Today's first half for ISU was almost an exact reversal of Friday's game vs. UNI where the Redbirds raced ahead 10-0 and 26-11 before trailing 35-34 at the half.

Today's attendance of 18,262 is the second best MVC semifinal crowd on record, behind only 22,612 in 2007.