

## Missouri Valley Conference Men's Basketball Tournament, Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Mo.

### Game 5, March 8, 6 pm, : #2 Wichita State Shockers (69) vs. #7 Missouri State Bears (59)

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**Wichita State's** win moves the Shockers into Saturday's 4 p.m. semifinal against the winner of the Northern Iowa-Illinois State quarterfinal matchup. The Shockers are 25-7 for the season (3-0 vs. MSU) and 26-31 in the MVC tourney (3-4 vs. MSU). WSU has a 32-30 all-time series lead over the Bears. Coach Gregg Marshall is 134-68 in his sixth season at WSU, 328-151 in his 15<sup>th</sup> season overall as a college head coach, 6-5 in the MVC tourney and 4-1 in the MVC quarters. WSU has won its last five meetings vs. MSU and Marshall is 2-0 vs. MSU in the MVC and 10-4 vs. the Bears overall. Marshall has won a tournament game five years in a row.

**Missouri State finishes** its season 11-22 with the most losses a Bear team has had in a season. MSU is 27-22 all-time in the MVC tourney. Coach Paul Lusk is 27-38 in his second year at MSU and 29-61 in his third year overall as a college head coach. Lusk is 0-5 vs. WSU and 1-2 in the MVC tournament.

**First Half:** MSU's Marcus Marshall opened the game with a three-pointer and the Bears pushed out to an 8-2 lead in the first five minutes of the contest. The Bears had three other six-point advantages before a three-point play by Cleanthony Early tied the game at 15-15 with 8:02 left in the half. Defense continued to prevail as the game was tied at 21 and 23 before a late surge pushed WSU into a 29-24 halftime advantage. Missouri State's only two turnovers of the half led to the late WSU lead and the Shockers amassed a 23-11 rebound margin while MSU was shooting just .304 from the field (7/23). WSU outscored MSU 17-6 in bench points as reserves Jake White and Nick Wiggins scored six each for WSU. WSU shot .444 from the field but missed all eight of its three-point attempts.

**Second Half Notes:** The Bears' Keith Pickens opened the second half with a three-point play and then tied the game at 31-31 with a layup two minutes into the half. Ron Baker then hit two three-pointers – WSU's first threes of the night -- in a 10-0 WSU run that put WSU ahead 41-31 with 14:40 minutes to play before Marcus Marshall snapped the run with a trey. Pickens brought MSU back within 44-39 with a three-point play with 10:57 remaining. Marcus Marshall drained his third triple of the night to pull Missouri State within two 48-46 with 7:53 to play. WSU then ran off a 10-1 run, fired by a trey from Fred VanVleet, for a 58-47 edge with five minutes left. The Bears didn't get closer than six the rest of the way.

**Missouri State Notes:** Marcus Marshall, MVC Freshman of the Year, tied and easily broke the MSU single season freshman scoring record. He tied the mark as he buried a trey ahead of the shot clock buzzer with 19:24 left in the first half when he pushed his season point total to 346 to tie Blake Ahearn's freshman point record from 2003-04. Marshall finished with 25 points, his 19<sup>th</sup> double-figure scoring outing and second 25-point game of the season to wind up his rookie campaign with 368. Marshall's 25 was the best MVC tourney point total by a freshman since Kyle Korver of Creighton scored 25 in 2000 vs. Bradley. The Bears got 31 points from their freshman group, pushing the season point total for the freshmen to 837, the best rookie season scoring ever at MSU. Marshall also matched his season high in treys with 4. The Bear freshmen are averaging more than 25 points a game and providing just over 43 percent of the team's scoring production.

**Wichita State Notes:** The Shockers amassed a huge 43-24 rebound margin in the game and outrebounded the Bears 131-78 in three wins over MSU this season. WSU got a 36-6 scoring advantage from its bench over the MSU bench. Ron Baker, out since December with a stress fracture after getting 18 in the WSU season opener, finished with 15 points in his first game back as he hit 5/7 from the floor, while Jake White had 9 points and 8 rebounds for WSU. Carl Hall had his seventh double-double of the season with 18 points and 12 rebounds. WSU's rebounds sparked a 22-4 edge in second chance points for the Shockers.