

# 2011 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 4 ... 2:35 p.m., Friday, March 4 ... St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center)

#4 Northern Iowa (57) vs. #5 Creighton (60)

**Creighton:** The Bluejays win their second straight to go to 19-13 on the year. CU is 37-19 in the tourney, 17-12 in the quarterfinals and is in the semifinals for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in 13 seasons. CU has a 28-15 series record vs. UNI, is 2-0 in tourney games vs. UNI and wins season series from Panthers, 2-1. Coach Greg McDermott is 19-13 in his first year at CU and 299-208 in his 17<sup>th</sup> year overall as a college head coach. McDermott is 3-4 vs. UNI and is 5-4 in tourney games.

Doug McDermott, an all-league first teamer as a freshman, led CU with 9 points and 7 rebounds the first half. Today is second time this season CU has held a foe to 17 points in the first half. CU led Western Illinois 28-17 on Dec. 20. Kenny Lawson, Jr., was 0/2 from three-point range in eight previous career games vs. UNI and today was 4/5, matching his career trey high. Lawson's 18 points are his most in the past 23 games as he was 7/9 overall from the floor. Jahenns Manigat had career high 6 rebounds to go with 7 points. McDermott got his seventh rebound of the game with 13:39 left in the first half and didn't get another.

**Northern Iowa:** UNI is 19-13 with seventh setback in its last eight games this season. Panthers are 16-16 in MVC tourney. Coach Ben Jacobson is 108-56 in his 5<sup>th</sup> year at UNI and overall as a college head coach.

Kwadzo Ahelegbe has started 105 consecutive games for UNI, which ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation among active starting streaks. Ahelegbe's total 131 games is second in school history behind 132 from Adam Koch (2006-10). This is UNI's second lowest scoring half of the season and sixth time this year UNI scored fewer than 25 points in first half. Panthers are 1-4 in those games. UNI had only one turnover in first half and had 8-0 advantage on points scored off turnovers. UNI hit .552 (16/29) from the floor the second half after going .296 (8/27) the first half. Kerwin Dunham has a career-best four blocks. The loss ended a string of six straight tourney wins for the two-time defending tourney champion Panthers. UNI tied a season-low (fourth time) with four turnovers. CU's 39-24 rebound margin is the most one-sided by a foe over UNI this season.

**First Half:** Doug McDermott had three of CU's first four baskets in an 8-0 lead before UNI scored at the 16:16 mark on a trey by Kerwin Dunham, UNI's first make in six tries in the game. The Bluejays led 17-9 midway in the first half as McDermott had nine points. A bucket by Jake Koch with 6:15 left brought UNI within a basket at 19-17. Jahenns Manigat hit a three at the 5:05 mark to make it 22-17 and there was no more scoring until CU's Kenny Lawson buried a trey with 40 seconds left to give CU at 25-17 halftime lead. CU had a 25-10 margin on the boards the first half. There were just four FT's shot in the first half, with CU hitting 2/2 and UNI going 0/2.

**Second Half:** The slow scoring pace that ended the first half continued into the second frame. Anthony James scored two minutes into the half for what was UNI's first FG in over eight minutes. CU missed its first five shots of the half before Gregory Echenique put in a follow at 16:44 left to make it 27-19. That was followed by four threes – three of them by UNI – as UNI had an 11-5 run to close to within 32-30 six minutes into the half. CU built its lead back to eight as Lawson connected on a pair of treys to make it 49-41 at the 6:30 mark. Jake Koch hit two threes as UNI closed back to within four at 54-50 with 3:30 remaining. A trey by Ahelegbe with 1:50 left drew UNI to within one at 56-55 before Antoine Young made it 58-55 with a bucket with 1:29 left. Ahelegbe scored with a minute left but Lawson made it 60-57 with a basket with 25 seconds left. The teams traded missed possessions before UNI got the ball back with 7.4 seconds left and Ahelegbe missed a trey attempt just ahead of the final buzzer.

**Records and Tournament Notes:** Today's afternoon attendance of 10,608. is ninth best for quarterfinal round. The total of five points separating the two teams in the two afternoon games is the smallest combined margin in the opening quarterfinal round in the 35-year history of the tourney.