

2011 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 9 ... Championship ... 1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 6 ... St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center)

#1 Missouri State (56) vs. #3 Indiana State (60)

Indiana State: The Sycamores win their fifth straight to go to 20-13 and advance to the NCAA tourney for the fourth time overall and first time since 2001. ISU also reached the NCAA tourney in 1979, when it finished as national runner-up, and 2000. ISU is 21-28 in MVC tourney play, 2-2 in the title game. Greg Lansing is 20-13 in his first year at ISU and overall as a college head coach. He is 2-1 vs. MSU, 3-0 in MVC tourney. ISU is 20-36 all-time vs. MSU.

Greg Lansing is the first coach to reach MVC tourney title game in his first year since 2008, when rookie head coaches Keno Davis (Drake) and Tim Jankovich (Illinois State) faced each other.

This is ISU's best win total since 2001 tourney title season when Sycamores were 22-12. ISU's coming back from early 9-0 deficit for 12-12 tie was similar to Saturday when Sycamores fell behind Wichita State 13-2 at start but knotted the game at 20-20. ISU is 6-9 this season when trailing at halftime, and trailed at the half in all three tourney wins this year. Jordan Printy continued his hot three-point shooting with a pair of treys the first half to make him 6/10 from long range through three games. Myles Walker was 2/5 from floor and 10/16 in the tourney. Aaron Carter is in double figures in scoring for the 13th time in his last 22 games. ISU didn't get a FG over the last 8:01 of the game, hitting 10/15 from the line to close out the game. Jake Odum led ISU in scoring (37) and assists (10) in the tourney and hit 19/26 from the line plus game-winning basket in quarterfinals vs. Evansville. Odum is the first MVC freshman to start at point guard for tourney winner since Isacc Miles of Creighton.

Missouri State: Bears fall to 25-8 this season, 26-20 overall in MVC tourney and 1-7 in tourney title games with a tourney championship in 1992 and title game losses in 1991-97-98-00-04-05-11. Cuonzo Martin is 60-40 in his third year at MSU and overall as a college head coach. He's 2-5 vs. ISU and 3-3 in MVC tourney.

Missouri State scored the first nine points of the game. The Bears never led in first half of quarterfinal win vs. Southern Illinois or by more than two in first half of semifinal win over Creighton. MSU has used same starting five of Nafis Ricks-Adam Leonard-Jermaine Mallett-Kyle Weems-Will Creekmore for the 35th straight game, the nation's longest streak with the same starting quintet (2 last year, 33 this year). The only other season MSU used the same starters in every game came in the 34 games (28-6) of the Bears' first NCAA team in 1986-87.

Kyle Weems finished with 11 points to move career scoring total to 1,336, 13th all-time at MSU. Weems has scored in double figures in 31 of 33 games this season and 78 of 100 in his career. Jermaine Mallett had his 24th double-figure scoring game with 17. Adam Leonard had three treys, marking only second time in 13 games Bears have lost when Leonard hits three or more treys. Missouri State falls to 15-3 when leading at halftime this season. The Bears lost after leading Indiana State 32-27 at intermission on Jan. 19 in Terre Haute. Weems started 3-for-5 from the floor, then missed his final 11 attempts over the final 31:43 minutes of the afternoon. He entered the tourney shooting .507 for the year, but went just 13-of-47 (.277) in St. Louis. MSU finished at .335 (56/167) as a team for the tourney on games of .333, .370 and .305 in the Bears' three tourney outings.

This is the 100th game Cuonzo Martin and Kyle Weems have teamed together at MSU, and Martin is averaging 20 wins a year for his three seasons, on top of a 20-loss, MVC last-place finish just two years ago in his first season at MSU. This matches third highest win total in MSU history, topped by Coach Charlie Spoonhour's 28-6 season in '86-87 in Bears' first NCAA tourney visit and a 27-5 in 1951-52 season which included an NAIA national title, and tying 25-2 season in 1948-49. Martin's 60 wins are the second most for a Bear coach his first three seasons, topped only by Bob Vanatta's 73 wins (1950-53). MSU is the fourth team in five years to reach MVC tourney title game after claiming both the MVC Coach and MVC Player of the year honors.

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First Half: MSU's Adam Leonard hit a trey with the first shot of the game and Jermaine Mallett got a steal and break-away layup to make it 5-0 after half a minute. Mallett and Will Creekmore followed with short jumpers to make it 9-0 before an Aaron Carter trey at 16:31 got ISU on the board. Jordan Printy's three at 12:24 gave ISU a 7-0 run and tied the game at 12-12. MSU went up 17-12 but a 7-0 ISU run gave the Sycamores their first lead at 19-17 at 8:26 as Carl Richard scored. MSU was 4/5 from floor getting its 9-0 lead, 3/12 after that until ISU took its 19-17 edge. From there, the biggest lead either team had was three until MSU grabbed a 31-28 halftime lead; the Bears first advantage at the intermission in three MVC tourney games this year. The first half saw four ties and six lead changes. MSU had an 18-11 rebound edge the first half for a 9-3 edge in second-chance points.

Second Half: ISU started with 8-0 run for a 36-31 lead before two FT's from Nafis Ricks tied the game 38-38 with 13:28 left. ISU jumped back up by five at 43-38 on a trey and a two from Aaron Carter as the Bears missed their first 12 FG tries of the second half. ISU got its largest lead at 46-38 with 10:00 to play. Will Creekmore's free throw with 9:44 to play made Bears 8/10 from line without a field goal midway in second half. Adam Leonard got the Bears' first FG of second half with 9:19 to play to cut ISU lead to 46-41. That stretched Bears to 11:15 minutes without a field goal (13 straight misses) since late in first half. MSU was 2/17 from the field the first 12 minutes of second half. Weems had missed 10 straight FG tries but Mallett hit a pair of treys at 5:19 and 4:33 to bring Bears back within a point at 54-53. Each team misfired on its next three possessions before Odum made 1-of-2 FT's with 1:26 left for 55-53 ISU lead. Bears missed two cracks their next trip and ISU got possession with a minute left with Ricks fouling Odum with 31.9 seconds left as Rick fouled out. Odum hit both to make it 57-53. Leonard buried a left corner trey with 25.8 left to cut Sycamore lead to 57-56. Odum went back to the line with 19.2 seconds left and hit 1-of-2. MSU called time out with 6.5 seconds left and got a turnover with 2.4 seconds left. Caleb Patterson fouled ISU's Jake Kelly with 1.4 seconds left and he made both to ice the victory.

Tournament Notes: Today's final round attendance of 10,171 hikes the final 2011 tourney total to 50,305. Arch Madness attendance through 21 years (99 sessions, 178 games) in St. Louis stands at 1,023,692.

This was the 11th tourney meeting between #1 and #3 seeds, all in the championship game. Top seeds are now 7-4. The last two #1-#3 matchups prior to 2009 UNI overtime win over Illinois State were in 1997 and 1998, with Illinois State beating Missouri State both times. This was only the second MSU-ISU meeting in MVC tourney play, with the Bears getting a 79-78 overtime triumph in the 1999 quarterfinals.

The team leading at halftime is 27-8 in MVC tourney finals. There have been no halftime ties in the title game and 10 previous games with a three-point halftime margin or less. MVC tourney record of #1 seeds is 69-22. This is the fifth lowest combined point total for the title game, and lowest since SIU beat Bradley 59-46 in 2006. ISU becomes the sixth team to win title with 60 or fewer points, and second in three years.

The 2011 State Farm MVC All-tournament team includes Jake Odum and Aaron Carter of Indiana State and Kyle Weems, Adam Leonard and Jermaine Mallett of Missouri State. Mallett is the tourney's Most Outstanding Player, marking just the third time in tourney history the MOP has not been on the winning team.

ISU's 57.7 average on 173 points in three games is lowest scoring average for a tourney champ since Creighton in 1978.