

2011 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 3 ... Semifinal Round ... 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 5 ... St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center)

#1 Missouri State (60) vs. #5 Creighton (50)

Missouri State: Bears win their fourth straight game to move to 25-7 and into MVC tourney finals for first time since 2005 and eighth time overall (1991-92-97-98-00-04-05). MSU gets fifth straight win over CU and a season sweep of CU for first time since 1996-97. Tourney record of #1 seeds is 69-21. MSU tourney record 26-19. Cuonzo Martin is 60-39 in his third year at MSU and overall as a college head coach. He's 5-3 vs. CU and 3-2 in MVC tourney. MSU trails its all-time CU series 30-26 and is 5-6 vs. CU in MVC tourney.

Adam Leonard moved to tie for 6th in MSU season three point makes at 74. Weems finished with 15 points to move his career scoring total to 1,325, which is 13th all-time at MSU. Bears go to 8-1 vs. MVC foes this season after trailing at half. MSU went first 22:49 of game without a turnover and Bears' three turnovers is a season low and tied an MVC season low. After leading only the final 1.4 seconds in the quarterfinal win Friday, the Bears have now led their foes just 11:54 of the combined 80 minutes in two tourney wins. CU led at halftime of both previous meetings this season vs. MSU but the Bears came back to win both. Jermaine Mallett had his first season and second career double-double with 18 points, 11 rebounds, with 13 second-half points. CU won bench points 18-2 but MSU led 16-2 on points off turnovers.

Cuonzo Martin's 60th win puts his average at 20 wins a year for his three seasons, which comes on top of a 20-loss, MVC last-place finish just two years ago in his first season with the Bears. The Bears, in their second straight 24-win season, are at 25 wins for the first time since the 1986-87 team had a school record 28-6 campaign. This is the fourth season of 25 or more wins in MSU history.

Creighton: The Bluejays are 19-14 and are 37-20 in MVC tourney games. Greg McDermott is 19-14 in his first year at Creighton and 299-209 in his 17th year overall as a college head coach.

CU is 8-2 in its last 10 MVC tourney games when playing an opponent with a higher seed. After going 8/16 from three-point range Friday vs. UNI, CU was 4/5 from long range the first 12 minutes vs. MSU. Kenny Lawson continued his torrid tourney shooting, going 9/12 from the floor through a game and a half. McDermott had game-high six rebounds first half and one in second half. CU had just two baskets in final 11:50 of second half (2/13 shooting). MSU outscored CU 23-8 in that span. Kenny Lawson was the only Jay in double figures with 12 points.

First Half: CU jumped ahead 4-0 as MSU missed its first four shots. MSU pulled even at 4-4 by the first media time out and it was a one-point or two-point game until a trey by Darryl Ashford moved CU ahead 20-16 with nine minutes left in the half. There were six lead changes to that point. After its 16-15 lead at 10:25, MSU missed 11 of its next 12 FG tries in an 11-4 CU run before Jermaine Mallett's 3-point play. CU moved up 22-16 and kept its slim lead until taking a 30-25 margin at the half on a short jumper by Doug McDermott on an inbounds pass under the CU goal with three seconds left. CU outscored MSU 12-2 in bench points in the half. MSU had no turnovers in the first half and both teams were perfect from the line (CU 2/2, MSU 4/4). McDermott led all players with 7 points, 6 rebounds in first half.

Second Half: Jahenns Manigat got CU started in the second half with a three and a two with shot clock running out to push CU ahead 35-27. After getting just five points in first half, Kyle Weems had five in a 28-second span in second half as MSU cut into that lead. The Bears had a 6-0 run to get within two at 37-35 before Kenny Lawson hit a three to put CU back up by five and end a four-minute CU scoring drought. Weems had a three-point play with 10:50 left to pull MSU back within 42-41. Adam Leonard gave MSU a 43-42 lead with two FT's at 10:07, the Bears' first lead since 10:31 of first half. Jermaine Mallett hit a follow underneath for an 8-0 MSU run. After going 0/5 from floor, Mallett hit his first FG with 2:40 left in first half and then 3-of-4 to start second half for Bears. Kenny Lawson's basket with 5:10 left ended a CU scoring drought of 6:37 with six misses and three turnovers in that span. MSU was on a 15-2 run with Mallett getting seven of Bears' last nine points in the run. Weems (8) and Mallett (11) combined for 19 of Bears' first 27 points of half. Two free throws by Nafis Ricks with 1:40 left moved Bears ahead by 11 at 58-47 and MSU won by 10 points.