

# 2011 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 3 ... Quarterfinal Round ... 12:05 p.m., Friday, March 4 ... St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center)

**#1 Missouri State (58) vs. #8 Southern Illinois (56)**

**Missouri State:** Bears win their third straight to improve to 24-7 overall and advance to the semifinals for the first time since 2007. MSU improves the tourney record of #1 seeds to 68-21 and MSU tourney record to 25-19. MSU swept SIU 3-0 this year. Cuonzo Martin is 59-39 in his third year at MSU and overall as a college head coach. He's 2-2 in the MVC tournament and 4-3 vs. SIU. MSU trails its all-time with SIU series, 38-30 and is 4-4 vs. SIU in the MVC tourney. The Bears' win gives them a second straight 24-win season and the ninth year with 24 or more wins in school history. The Bears are 14-6 overall in quarterfinal round games.

MVC Player of the Year Kyle Weems was held to one point in the first half and was 0-7 from the floor. Adam Leonard, who averaged 13 points in two previous games vs. SIU this year, led the Bears at half with 11 points. The Bears shot 25% (6-24) in trailing by eight at the half. MSU had not been held under 60 points since Jan. 30 (8 games ago) loss 60-59 to UNI. Leonard had five threes in the game and the Bears go to 11-1 when he has three or more threes. Nafis Ricks fouled out with 54 seconds left, the first time he's fouled out all year, and he matched season-low with 4 points. MSU hit three of their last four treys after making just 4 of its first 20 in the game. MSU goes to 18-3 when out-rebounding its foes and 17-2 when Bears have more FT tries. Bears had 38-28 rebounding edge and shot 25 FT's to 11 for SIU. Leonard hit five treys for the second game in a row for a season-high 20 points. Leonard moved to #7 in season threes with 73. Weems finished with 14 points to move his career scoring total to 1,310, making him the 13<sup>th</sup> player to top 1,300 plateau. Bears go to 7-1 vs. MVC goes this season after trailing at halftime.

**Southern Illinois:** The Salukis finish their season 13-19 and fall to 30-18 in MVC tourney games. Chris Lowery is 137-93 in his 7<sup>th</sup> year at SIU and overall as a college head coach.

The seven points Kendal Brown-Surles scored the first three minutes surpasses the five he scored combined in the first two MSU-SIU meetings this season and he led SIU first half scoring with 9. SIU's leading scorer, Carlton Fay, did not have a point or rebound in the first half and played only eight minutes after picking up his second foul. John Freeman's eight first-half points matched his total in two games vs. MSU during the season. SIU hit 58% (14-24) from the floor and outscored MSU 18-4 in the paint in the first half. Mamadou Seck had 8 points and 10 rebounds in the first half. Seck finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the year.

**First Half:** SIU made its first five shots from the field to go ahead 11-3 three minutes into the game. Kendal Brown-Surles had SIU's first seven points. SIU was up by eight midway through the half, 17-9. MSU hit two of its first 13 shots from the floor. A two and a three by Jermaine Mallett and a trey by Adam Leonard closed MSU within 19-17 with 7:29 to play as SIU was 4:49 without a basket in an overall 10-2 MSU run. Clinging to a 22-19 lead, SIU went on a 10-1 run, making five shots in a row, for its biggest lead at 32-21. SIU led 32-24 at half. SIU finished 9-6 when leading at the half and MSU is now 8-5 when trailing at the half. The Bears are 6-1 when trailing MVC foes this year. The largest MSU halftime deficit to a league school this year was 10 points at Evansville. That's the only MVC game this year in which the Bears trailed at the half and did not come back to win. MSU led 35-24 and 35-28 at half in two regular season games vs. SIU. SIU did not score the last 2:48 of the game. The Bears trailed 17-15 on the boards at halftime.

**Second Half:** MSU closed to 32-28 but SIU moved back up 37-30 by first media time out. MSU had three turnovers in first 3:36 of second half, equaling entire first half total of three TO's. Baskets by Mallett and Will Creekmore cut the gap to 37-35 before Justin Bocot buried a SIU trey with 12:50 remaining. The Salukis pushed its lead back to nine a 46-37 midway in the half on a 9-2 run ignited by Bocot's five points. The Bears closed within 46-42 but a basket and three-point play by Seck moved SIU lead back to 51-42 with five minutes left. Threes by Leonard at 2:15, Weems with two minutes left and Leonard with 42 seconds left tied the game 56-56. It was the first time SIU had not led in the contest. Weems then hit a driving bank from the right side of the lane with 1.4 seconds left to give the Bears their only lead of the game. SIU did not score the last 2:48 of the game, committing two turnovers with one missed shot last three possessions. The Salukis also missed the front end of two 1-and-1 situations at the foul line.