



State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Post-Game Notes

Quarterfinal Round

Southern Illinois 71, Drake 59

Friday, March 2, 2007

The Teams

Southern Illinois, winning its 12th straight game, improves its record to 26-5 and becomes the fourth team in school history to win 26 games in a season, having done so in 1990 (26), 2002 (28), and 2005 (27)...The Salukis improve their MVC Tournament record to 30-22 while advancing to the semifinal round for sixth straight year

and for the 16th time overall...This also marked the Salukis' 17th straight victory against Drake which is the longest active series streak in the MVC...SIU is now 3-1 against Drake in MVC Tournament play...Drake falls to 17-15, while suffering its 17th straight loss to Southern Illinois...The Bulldogs' record in the MVC Tournament falls to 11-29, including a 6-18 mark in quarterfinal round games...SIU is now 22-3 when leading at halftime...Drake is 4-10 when trailing at the half...Only one of 21 opening-round winners has reached the MVC Tournament semifinals, that team being Bradley in 76-68...SIU becomes the first defending MVC Tournament champion to win a game since Creighton, 2002 winners, beat Indiana State 57-56, in the 2003 quarterfinals en route to back-to-back titles...Drake scored 59 points for the game against SIU after scoring 51 points in the first-half of its opening-round victory over Evansville and although the Bulldogs scored 40 in the last 20 minutes against the Salukis...The Bulldogs made 22 three-pointers in their two MVC Tournament games...This is the ninth time the Saluki offense has included 15 assists this season, with passes setting up 16 of 23 SIU field goals...The Salukis defense equaled their season high with 13 steals...Drake's 22 turnovers were a season high, eclipsing the 20 the Bulldogs had vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Bracket Buster game February 17, though they committed just two miscues over the final 8:22...The teams combined for 10 fouls and four free-throw attempts in the first half, followed by 31 fouls and 44 free-throw attempts in the second half.

Game Highlights

Randal Falker's basket 1:24 into the game gave SIU a lead it would never relinquish...Klayton Korver's three-pointer pulled Drake back to 4-3, on its seventh possession of the game, at the 16:47 mark...Southern Illinois then went on a 10-1 run, to open up a 14-4 advantage, as the Salukis made six of their first eight shots from the field...Josh Young's replay-ruled three-pointer for Drake with 12:43 left in the first half kicked off a 9-0 run that cut the lead to 14-13 with 7:44 left in the half...SIU missed 10 consecutive shots, including six from three-point range, before Randal Falker's lay-up 6:34 left broke the Saluki drought and the Bulldog run...Drake's first four field goals of the game were three-pointers, out of eight treys attempted, as they missed their first five shots inside the arc...A layup by Korver with 3:43 left, Drake's first deuce of the game, cut the SIU lead to 20-15...The Bulldogs, last in the Valley with 5.6 three-pointers per game entering the MVC Tournament, made 19 in their first 65 minutes in St. Louis...This is the eighth time this season the Salukis have held an opponent to fewer than 20 points in the first half...At the start of the second half, Drake scored first to cut the SIU lead to 30-21, then Tony Young scored seven straight points to give SIU a 37-21 lead with 17:14 left...Southern Illinois made its first five shots after halftime and expanded its lead to 42-25 at the 14:50 mark...After Tony Young made both ends of Al Stewart's technical to put SIU ahead 52-36 with 8:38 left, Drake went on an 11-4 run, Korver's two free throws with 3:29 left reducing the Salukis lead to single digits, 56-47, for the first time since Stewart's layup pulled the Bulldogs to within nine points, at 30-21, on the opening possession of the second half.

Drake Player Plaudits

Klayton Korver came off the bench to lead Drake with 14 points including three three-pointers...Ajay Calvin scored 12 points, reaching double-figures for the 15th straight game...Al Stewart fouled out with 8:38 left in the game on a direct deadball technical foul following his fourth personal...it was Stewart's first disqualification of the season in 32 games played.

Southern Illinois Player Plaudits

Jamaal Tatum led the Salukis with 19 points, placing him in double-digits for the sixth straight game and matching him with Matt Shaw for game-high honors...Tatum, along with Bryan Mullins, also had six assists...After making 13 of 15 field-goal attempts against Evansville, in last Saturday's regular-season finale, Randal Falker was perfect on four shots today...Tony Young matched his career high by handing out four assists.