



State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Post-Game Notes

Quarterfinal Round

Bradley 51, Northern Iowa 48

Friday, March 2, 2007

The Crowd...Again

Today's attendance of 15,186 is the third-largest crowd to witness an MVC Tournament session and the largest to ever watch a quarterfinal session...the old quarterfinal mark of 14,533 was set as Southern Illinois defeated Evansville, 71-55, and Northern Iowa downed Missouri State, 57-42, the evening of March 4, 2006...the largest daytime quarterfinal gathering had been the 14,171 on hand the afternoon of March 6, 2004, when

Southern Illinois beat Evansville, 93-67, and Missouri State downed Creighton, 84-75.

The Teams

This is the 54th game, out of 234, in MVC Tournament history, and the second out of four in this year's tournament, decided by three points or less...Bradley won for the fifth time in six games, losing only to UNI since February 7, and improves to 21-11, while Northern Iowa falls to 18-13...This is only the second time Bradley and UNI have met in the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament...Bradley won 59-56 in the quarterfinals of the 2001 tourney...Bradley denied UNI its first three-game winning streak in the series history, the Panthers having swept the regular-season series 76-69 at Cedar Falls Dec. 27 (ESPN2) and 79-70 just 10 days ago in Peoria, shooting a season-best 63 percent from the field...The Braves increased their lead in the all-time series to 24-11...no Valley team has won three games from Bradley in a season since Jim Les arrived in Peoria as head coach in 2002...Bradley moves to 16-3 when leading at halftime while Northern Iowa falls to 3-7 when trailing at the half...UNI scored its second-fewest points in a game this season and is the third Bradley opponent this year to score fewer than 58 points...the other two games were an 88-49 win over Horizon League regular-season champion Wright State and a 48-46 win over Valley regular-season titlist Southern Illinois...The Panthers made a season-low 17 field goals...Bradley was outrebounded for the 25th time in 32 games this season...In the two UNI wins over Bradley this season, the Panthers outrebounded the Braves 76-50, and today they did so 31-24...Bradley played in the MVC Tournament 4-5 quarterfinal for the 11th time, more than any other team, and is now 6-5, 5-1 as the fourth seed...Only last year did the Braves play in the the 4-5 quarterfinal, beat the top seed in the semifinal, defeating Creighton 54-47, and reach the Valley title game...Bradley defeated UNI 59-56 in a 2001 quarterfinal, the only prior MVC Tournament meeting...entering the game, Bradley's .426 three-point field goal percentage led in the nation and the Braves' 10.4 three-pointers per game was second, and they hit seven of 14 today...The Braves entered today's game with a Valley single-season record 321 three-point field goals...Against Bradley this season, the Panthers made 16 of 29 three-point field goals (55 percent), but hit just six of 16 (38 percent) today.

Game Highlights

Bradley scored the game's first six points...Northern Iowa opened the game with six scoreless possessions, on three missed shots and three turnovers, before Grant Stout's 10-foot jumper at the 15:27 mark...Bradley's 13-4 start brought about UNI's first timeout with 13:34 left in the half...The Braves' first turnover came on their 12th possession, at the 12:59 mark, by which point the Panthers had committed five miscues...two Daniel Ruffin buckets, the first a three-pointer, on Bradley's next two trips made it 18-4 with 11:12 left...UNI answered with 12 straight points, on shots by four different players, to cut the lead to 18-16...Bradley went scoreless for nearly six minutes before J.J. Tauai hit a trey with 5:20 to go...The Panthers got no closer than three points the rest of the half...Bradley held leads of from six to 10 points over the first eight minutes of the second half...The Braves led 38-29 with 11:57 left in the game, UNI went on a 10-2 run, Stout scoring five points and Coleman tallying four, to cut the lead to 40-39 with 9:44 to play...The Panthers moved to within one three times after the break before taking their first lead of the game on a Stout trey from the top of the key with 2:14 left, capping a 7-0 run and assuming a 48-46 lead...Bradley missed eight of its last nine shots from the field before Tauai scored to tie it with 1:05 left...Will Franklin's off-balance trey with 2.7 seconds remaining gave Bradley the win as Franklin tipped, and then Ruffin intercepted, the inbound pass.

Bradley Player Plaudits

J.J. Tauai led Bradley with 16 points, 11 after halftime, and his seven field goals were a career high...Daniel Ruffin, the Braves' leading scorer in both previous games against UNI this season with 20 points each time, had nine points – all in the first half...Jeremy Crouch, the league leader in three-point field goals per game (3.17) and three-point field goal percentage (.503), did not attempt a trey until the 8:38 mark in the second half...Danny Adams second three-pointer of the game was his 60th of the season, giving Bradley four players with at least 60 treys this season, an MVC record...Adams joins Will Franklin, Crouch and Ruffin, in the record-setting quartet...Zach Andrews, who has scored in double figures in 10 of his last 11 contests, went scoreless for the first time this year and attempted only one field goal.

Northern Iowa Player Plaudits

Grant Stout, the reigning Valley Player of the Week, and Brooks McKowen each played in their 127th games in a Panther uniform and became the all-time career leaders in games played at UNI...Stout tossed home 12 of his game-high 19 points in the second half...Stout equaled his season average with nine rebounds...Eric Coleman's two free throws at the 11:16 mark of the second half were his first points in more than 19

minutes...Coleman (12.7 ppg, 10.0 rpg) and Stout (15.3 ppg, 11.0 rpg) each averaged a double-double against Bradley for the three games this season.