



## State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

### Post-Game Notes

#### Quarterfinal Round

Missouri State 67, Wichita State 64

Friday, March 2, 2007

**MVC TOURNAMENT NOTES:** Missouri State's victory marks the eighth time in the 17-year history of the MVC Tournament being held in St. Louis, Mo., that the top four seeds (#1 Southern Illinois, #2 Creighton, #3 Missouri State, #4 Bradley) have advanced into the semifinal. This is the first time this feat has occurred since 2003 when Southern Illinois, Creighton, Wichita State, Missouri State (Nos. 1-4, respectively) advanced.

Attendance for night quarterfinal round session was record 16,651, bettering previous mark of 15,186 set in earlier afternoon session. It also bettered the previous night quarterfinal round attendance session mark of 14,533

March 3, 2006. It also ranks as the second highest attendance for any single session. All three sessions of 2007 MVC Tournament have set attendance marks.

**MISSOURI STATE NOTES:** The Bears, winning their third straight game, improve to 22-9 while advancing to the semifinal round of the MVC Tournament for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in last 12 years (exceptions: 2001, 2006)...Missouri State also moves to 22-15 in MVC Tournament games, including a 13-4 quarterfinal round record and a 4-0 mark vs. Wichita State...The Bears improve their record to 3-7 this season when trailing at half.

**Player Plaudits** – Senior guard **Blake Ahearn** appeared in his 127<sup>th</sup> career game to move into a tie with Ryan Bettenhausen (1995-99) for third place on the school career games played list...Senior **Tyler Chaney** moved into tie for No. 5 spot on school career three-point basket list with 113, joining Allen Phillips (1998-2000)...**Drew Richards** moved into No. 5 spot on career blocked shot list with 91, surpassing Scott Brakebill (1998-2002, 89) and Johnny Epps (1994-96, 90)

**WICHITA STATE NOTES:** Wichita State, which suffered its fifth straight loss, falls to 17-14...The Shockers also see their MVC Tournament mark fall to 20-26, including a 12-12 record in quarterfinal-round games. This marked the first time Wichita State suffered a loss in the quarterfinal round since 2002...Wichita State made a season-high 13 three-pointers, bettering the 12 it had in an 83-75 loss at Illinois State Jan. 18...With those 13 treys and just eight two-point baskets, tonight's game marked the only time this season that the Shockers recorded more three-point baskets than two-point baskets in a game...This marks just the third time in 18 games that Wichita State lost while leading at halftime.

**Player Plaudits** – **Matt Braeuer**, who scored a team-high 18 points, hit a career-high five three-point goals and grabbed a career high five rebounds...Freshman guard **Gal Mekel**, who was making just his third start of the season, finished with 11 points – all in the first half. He failed to take a shot in the second half. His effort surpassed his combined total of eight points (7, 1) in two previous outings against Missouri State.

**Second Half** – Missouri State scored five of its last seven points at the free throw line to break a 60-60 tie. The Bears used four straight free throws by Blake Ahearn (two) and Devin Mitchell (two) within a 40-second span to grab a 64-60 lead it never relinquished at the 2:30 mark.. The Bears scored nine points in the second half off Wichita State miscues.

**First Half** - Wichita State recovered from missing its first six shots and jumped to 7-0 lead as the Bears failed to score in their first seven possessions, missing their first four shots...The Shockers turned a 14-10 deficit into a 25-18 lead following a 15-4 run that was triggered by Mekel who scored 10 points...There were two lead changes in first half with a tip-in by Kyle Wilson with 1:55 left giving Wichita State a 31-29 lead it wouldn't relinquish en route to a 34-32 halftime advantage...Deven Mitchell, recipient of the MVC Sixth Man Award, came off the bench to lead Missouri State with 12 points, hitting all five shots from floor...The Bears had six steals against Wichita State, equaling their entire game total in the first meeting with the Shockers while doubling their theft output in the second meeting.