



State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Post-Game Notes

Semifinal Round

Southern Illinois 53, Bradley 51

Saturday, March 3, 2007

MVC TOURNAMENT NOTES: This marks the first time since 2003 (#1 Southern Illinois) that the top-seeded team has advanced to the championship of the MVC Tournament...This is also the fourth of seven 2007 MVC Tournament games that have been decided by three points or less. A fifth game (Drake-Evansville) went to overtime...It was also the 56th time in 237 MVC Tournament games played in St. Louis that was determined by three points or less.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS NOTES: Southern Illinois, winning its 13th straight game, improved its record to 27-5 while advancing to championship of MVC Tournament for 10th time including a second straight appearance...The Salukis also improve their MVC Tournament record to 31-22 including a 9-7 semifinal round mark and 5-1 record against Bradley...The Salukis outscored Bradley, 17-6, in second-chance points led by **Matt Shaw's** game winning tip-in with 3.2 seconds left.

Player Plaudits – Senior guard **Jamaal Tatum** led the Salukis with 20 points, more than doubling his combined output of nine points in two previous games (6, 3) against Bradley...Senior forward **Randal Falker**, who had made 17 of his last 19 field goals over the past two games, made just one of five shots from the floor. However, he became the first player in the MVC Tournament to collect 10 or more rebounds in a game, grabbing a game-high 12. Guard **Tony Young**, who scored 25 points in the Salukis' Feb. 7 home game against Bradley, scored his only basket of the game with 10:18 remaining in second half.

BRADLEY NOTES: The Braves, who had a two-game winning streak snapped, fall to 21-12....The Braves' MVC Tournament record falls to 26-26, including 6-9 mark in the semifinal round and 4-2 MVC Tournament record against Southern Illinois...The Braves, who rank second in the NCAA in three-point baskets made per game (10.3 avg.), hit seven of 17 three-point shots which equaled their combined (7-36) three-point basket total from previous two games against Bradley this season....The Braves fell to 11-3 on Saturdays this season.

Player Plaudits – Guard **Jeremy Crouch**, who didn't play in first game against Southern Illinois (injury) and scored only one point in Feb. 7 game at Southern Illinois, led Bradley with 14 points, including eight in the first half...**Will Franklin**, who hit game winning shot for Bradley in quarterfinal round win vs. UNI Friday, was scoreless in the first half, missing five shots and finished with five points. Franklin had 18 and 15 points in previous two outings vs. Southern Illinois this season.

Second Half Recap – A record crowd of 22,612 saw the lead change hands five times in the last 3:43 before a tip-in from junior forward **Matt Shaw** with 3.2 seconds left off a missed layup by **Jamaal Tatum** proved to be the difference. Trailing 50-49, Bradley had a chance to take the lead by **Danny Adams** missed two free throws with 24 seconds left. Southern Illinois' **Randal Falker** then made one of two free throws with 23 seconds left to push the lead to 51-49. A layup by Bradley's **Zach Andrews** tied the game at 51-51 with 15 seconds left before Adams' heroics.

First Half Recap – **Jamaal Tatum**, the MVC Player of the Year who scored 19 points in the Salukis' quarterfinal round win against Drake Friday, was scoreless in the opening 17 minutes 12 seconds of the game. But the senior guard came to life scoring the Salukis' last eight points of the half to force a 26-26 halftime tie. Southern Illinois, which outrebounded Bradley by double digits (36-21) and (41-28) in the previous two games this season, enjoyed a 22-17 rebounding edge at halftime. Senior forward **Randal Falker** led the way with a game-high six boards, surpassing his entire four-rebound effort in a first-round win against Drake. Falker had 12 rebounds in both previous games against Bradley this season. Southern Illinois missed its first eight shots from the field before **Tyrone Green** ended the drought with a basket with 13:46 left. The Braves couldn't take advantage of a 10-3 lead as Green's basket and free throw ignited an 8-0 run that allowed Southern Illinois to grab its first lead at 11-10 following a jumper by Joshua Bone.