



## State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

### Post-Game Notes

#### Semifinal Round

Creighton 75, Missouri State 58

Saturday, March 3, 2007

**MVC TOURNAMENT NOTES:** This will be the first time a No. 1 seed (Southern Illinois) has played a No. 2 seed (Creighton) for the MVC Tournament championship since 2003 when SIU was seeded No. 1 and Creighton seeded No. 2 with the Bluejays prevailing, 80-56...This will mark the fourth time that Creighton will play Southern Illinois for the MVC Tournament championship with the Bluejays winning all three previous encounters (1989, 2002, 2003)... Creighton has won the MVC Tournament the last three times it was the No. 2 seed...No. 2 seeds have won the tournament six times in 17 tries in St. Louis, more than any other seed.

**CREIGHTON NOTES:** Creighton, winning its third straight game, improves to 21-10 while advancing to the championship of the MVC Tournament for the 11<sup>th</sup> time, including the fourth in the last six years...The Bluejays improve their MVC Tournament record to 33-16, including a 10-4 mark in semifinal round games...This also marked Creighton's 11<sup>th</sup> straight MVC Tournament victory as a No. 2 seed...Head coach Dana Altman earned his 18<sup>th</sup> MVC Tournament victory, passing former Southern Illinois coach Rich Herrin for most MVC Tournament coaching victories...Creighton won its third straight game against Missouri State, while improving its MVC Tournament record against the Bears to 6-4...Creighton is 13-0 when scoring 70 or more points this season and 16-4 when leading at halftime this season...Creighton made five three-point baskets – all in the first half...The Bluejays had six and five three-point baskets, respectively, in their previous two games against Missouri State this season...Creighton had 12 turnovers compared to 15 by Missouri State, marking the first time the Bluejays had fewer turnovers in the three games between the teams this season. The trio of **Nate Funk**, **Nick Porter** and **Anthony Tolliver** scored a combined 170 points of Creighton's 218 points in three games against Missouri State this season. They shot a combined 54.8 percent (52-95) while their teammates shot 32.1 percent (17-53), including 36.4 percent (10-22) from three-point range while their teammates hit 18.2 percent (6 of 33)...The trio also hit 82.4 percent from free throw (56-68), while their teammates hit only eight of 11 attempts (.727)

**Player Notes – Nate Funk** led Creighton with a season-high 33 points, marking his 22<sup>nd</sup> straight double-digit scoring game which is the longest active streak in the MVC. He also enjoyed his 23<sup>rd</sup> career 20-plus scoring game and his third career 30-plus scoring game... Funk had scored 23 and 21 points in two previous outings vs. the Bears this season...senior guard **Nick Porter** enjoyed the first double-double recorded in the 2007 MVC Tournament with 19 points (second highest total of season) and a career-high 13 rebounds...Funk and Porter matched season highs by making 10 and nine free throws, respectively. Guard **Isaac Miles**, who had three three-point baskets in the quarterfinal round game vs. Indiana State Friday, missed all five of his field goal attempts, including four from beyond the arc.

**MISSOURI STATE NOTES:** Missouri State, which had a three-game winning streak snapped, fell to 22-10...The Bears slipped to 22-16 in MVC Tournament games; including a 7-6 record in the semifinal round and a 4-6 mark against Creighton...Missouri State's reserves outscored Creighton, 27-4, including 17-0 in the first half.

**Player Notes – Blake Ahearn** led the Bears with 20 points, including 15 in the first half. It marked his ninth 20-plus scoring game of season. He made just one of six shots from the floor in the second half...**Deven Mitchell**, the MVC Sixth Man of the Year, added 19 points, including 10 in the second half.

**Second Half Recap –** Missouri State started the second half like the first half, by making only one of its first 14 shots in the opening 10:27 of the second half which enabled Creighton to enjoy a pair of 12-point leads (50-38, 53-41)...The Bears shot a frigid 21.9 percent from the floor in the second half, making only seven of 32 shots, including 1 of 12 beyond the three-point arc...Creighton closed out the game by making 11 of 12 free throws in the last 3:30 of the game.

**First Half Recap–** **Dane Watts** scored six points in an 11-4 run that allowed Creighton to turn a 28-28 tie into a 39-32 lead with 47 seconds left in the first half...Missouri State dug itself in a hole early by making just one of its first eight shots in the opening 9 minutes 9 seconds and Creighton took advantage, constructing a 17-5 lead with senior guard **Nate Funk** scoring nine points...Missouri State responded with a 21-9 run, paced by 10 points from **Blake Ahearn** and nine points by **Deven Mitchell** to tie the game at 26-26 with 5:01 left following a basket by **Spencer Laurie**...Missouri State made seven straight shots during a 5 minute four-second stretch (8:13-3:09) to key the comeback...Funk led Creighton with 17 points equaling his season per game scoring average...Missouri State's bench outscored Creighton's reserves, 17-0, with Mitchell tallying nine points.