

2010 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 1, 1st Rd., Thur., March 4, 6:00 p.m., St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center): #8 Drake (63), #9 Southern Illinois (61)

Drake Notes . . . Drake's 63-61 win over Southern Illinois improves the Bulldogs to 14-18 on the season and moves them into Friday's quarterfinal round where DU will face top-seeded UNI at 12:05 p.m. Drake's win also gives DU a 3-0 season sweep over SIU. It's the first time Drake has ever had a 3-0 season sweep over SIU. DU coach Mark Phelps is 31-34 in his second year at Drake and overall as a college head coach. Drake now has a 24-51 all-time record vs. SIU and the Bulldogs are 15-30 all-time in the MVC tourney. DU has won five of its last six vs. SIU.

DU senior Josh Young hit four free throws in the game to break the previous DU career mark of 439 FTs made by Melvin Mathis (1982-85). Young now has 440 career FTs. Young also extended his Drake career record point total to 1,790 with 14 points tonight and his DU career record for 3-pointers to 254 with two tonight. Drake's 63 points came after the Bulldogs had averaged 74.5 in two regular season wins over SIU. Freshman Seth VanDeest hit two free throws in the first half to break the DU season record for free throws made by a freshman and pushed his season total to 80. Young was 6/20 from the floor in DU's first two games vs. SIU and 1/9 tonight before hitting his last three shots with the two treys late in the game that put DU ahead and then the game-winner in the closing seconds. Ryan Wedel's five treys tonight matched his DU career high. Drake has made 10 or more treys in 11 games this year (10 tonight). Wedel finished with a game-high 19 points, giving him 50 points in three wins over SIU this season. Drake was outrebounded 23-9 the first 23 minutes of the game and the boards were even the rest of the way.

Southern Illinois Notes . . . SIU's loss to Drake closes the Salukis season at 15-15. Coach Chris Lowery has a 124-74 record in his sixth year at SIU and overall as a college head coach. SIU is now 31-26 all-time in the MVC meet and the Salukis have lost four straight MVC tourney games.

SIU's Tony Freeman was 0/5 on three-pointers in the game, ending at 21 his string of consecutive games with at least one trey. It was the longest active string in the MVC. Freeman failed to get a trey for only the second time this season. Kevin Dillard, the MVC assist leader for the season (5.1 ave.) did not have any the first 29.5 minutes tonight before finishing with three. John Freeman finished with 12 points, marking only the third time this year he's been in double figures. SIU is 2-9 this season in games decided by five or fewer points. Gene Teague had his third double-double of the year (10 pts, 10 reb.). SIU was 1/9 shooting threes tonight, a season-low in treys made in a game. SIU extended its rebound margin, winning the boards 40-26 for the game. SIU hit .476 (10/21) from the foul line, its second lowest FT% this season.

First Half . . . SIU took a 7-0 lead as Drake went scoreless the first 4:53 of the contest before Frank Wiseler hit a trey. Drake missed its first four shots, had two turnovers and hit 1/11 FGs the first 10:23 minutes of the contest as SIU went up 15-5. SIU extended its lead to 22-11 at the 6:28 mark before Drake scored seven in a row to cut the gap to four, and then closed to within two at the half, trailing 27-25. In two regular season Drake wins, the teams were tied at the half 1/9 at SIU and SIU led by two at the half 2/16. SIU is now 9-6 when leading at the half. DU is now 2-12 when trailing at the half, with both second half comebacks vs. SIU. SIU had a 24-12 rebound margin at the half. After failing to score in two earlier meetings vs. Drake, John Freeman had six in tonight's first half for SIU. Drake was just 7/23 (.304) from the floor the first half.

Second Half . . . The Bulldogs took their first lead of the game at 28-27 at the 19:27 mark on a trey by Ryan Wedel. Wedel immediately added another three before SIU went on an 10-0 run (18:17 to 14:55) for a 39-31 lead before Adam Templeton of DU scored on a breakaway layup. SIU started the second half 5/6 from the floor. SIU maintained a single-digit lead until pulling ahead by 10 at 51-41 with just over eight minutes to play. After committing 8 TO's to 4 for SIU the first half, DU had 7 miscues to 3 for SIU the second half. Drake then ran off 10 points in a row and Young hit his first trey of the game to get the Bulldogs even at 51-51 with 5:48 to play. Young, who started the game 0/5 shooting threes, added another trey at the five-minute mark for a 13-0 DU run. Kevin Dillard hit 1-of-2 free throws at 2:45 mark for a 57-57 tie. Craig Stanley and Tony Freeman matched baskets to make it 59-59 with two minutes left. Stanley added another driving layup for a 61-59 DU lead with a minute left. Gene Teague added a putback with 34 seconds left for a 61-61 tie. Young then added a 10-footer on the left edge of the lane with 1.5 seconds left. Carlton Fay's half-court in-bounds pass was intercepted by Stanley to end the game. After hitting .304 from the floor the first half, Drake hit .609 (14/23) the second half, including 7/15 threes (.467).