2010 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes
Game 2, 1st Rd., 8:30 p.m., Thur., March 4, St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center):   #7 Missouri State 52, #10 Evansville 46

Missouri State: The Bears' 52-46 win over Evansville moves MSU to 20-11 for the season and sends the Bears into Friday's 6:05 p.m., quarterfinal game vs. second-seeded Wichita State. It is the Bears' first 20-win season since 2006-07, 14th since moving to Division I in 1982 and the 27th campaign in school history with 20 or more wins. Coach Cuonzo Martin is 31-31 in his second season at MSU and overall as a college head coach. The Bears are now 24-18 in the MVC tourney, snapping a two-game tourney losing streak, and 4-0 vs. Evansville in the tourney. The Bears finished with a 3-0 sweep over Evansville. The only other 3-0 MSU sweep over UE was in 2002-03. Missouri State is 29-22 all-time vs. Evansville. Martin is 4-1 vs. Evansville.

The Bears have outrebounded 15 of their last 17 foes and 25 of 31 for year. MSU is 19-1 when leading with less than five minutes left. In the Bears' wins over UE, MSU led by two at the half and won by 14 at UE (12/29), led by three at the half and won by 10 at MSU (1/27) and led by two tonight before winning by six. The Bears outscored UE 108-85 in the second halves of the three wins over the Aces. MSU moved to 17-3 this season when leading at the half. Kyle Weems had 12 points and 11 rebounds for his third double-double of the year, all in the Bears' past four games. In two games in MVC tourney play, Weems is averaging 16 points and 8 rebounds. The Bears finished at .333 (19/57) from the field, their second lowest FG% of the year, and MSU's 52 points mark the team's lowest point total in a game this season. MSU had a 46-35 rebound edge.

Evansville: The Aces' loss closes UE's season at 9-21. Coach Marty Simmons is 35-56 in his third year at UE and 133-129 in his eighth year overall as a college head coach. UE is now 4-17 in the MVC tourney and 2-15 this year when trailing at the half.

Denver Holmes, who got 11 of UE's first 13 points tonight, has been in double figures in all three UE games vs. MSU and in 18 games this season. MVC Freshman of the Year Colt Ryan was 0/6 from the floor and scoreless in the first half. James Haarsma, the Aces' second leading scorer, was scoreless at halftime before his first bucket of the game at 17:23 of the second half. He matched his season scoring low of 3 points. Lewis Jones matched his career high with 5 rebounds.

First Half: MSU jumped out 5-0, UE tied the game 5-5, and Denver Holmes had all of UE's points as the Bears were up 10-8 at the 12-minute media time out. The Bears extended their lead to 15-8 midway in the half, and a 7-0 Bears' run made it 17-8 with nine minutes left. Pieter Van Tongeren scored at the 8:08 mark to cut the Bears' lead to 17-10 and also to become the first Aces' player other than Holmes to score in the game. Evansville went scoreless from 12:56 to 8:08. Holmes got a three-point play at the 7:34 mark to get into double figures in scoring as UE cut the MSU lead to 17-13. The Bears hit their first three FG tries of the game and then missed 12 of their next 16 tries. UE drew even at 19-19 at the 5:25 mark as Ned Cox scored. The Aces went up for the first time in the game as Cox scored again to make it 23-21 at 4:34 mark for UE runs of 6-0 and 13-2. Nafis Ricks snapped that run with two free throws at the 2:55 mark to tie the game 21-21 and end a Bears' scoring drought that started at the 6:49 mark. Kavon Lacey's FG at 1:40 put UE back ahead at 23-21 but Ricks tied it again with two FTs at the 1:32 mark. Kyle Weems hit a trey with 1:05 left and the Bears led 26-24 at the break. UE shot .333 (9/27) the first half and MSU was at .321 (9/28) with the Bears owning a 24-16 rebound margin.

Second Half: Ryan broke his scoreless night with a trey to start the second half and give UE a 27-26 edge. James Haarsma added a bucket to give UE a 29-26 lead at the 15:00 mark as the Bears didn't score the first five minutes of the half, missing their first 8 shots (also 0/2 from the line) after intermission. MSU missed 10 shots in a row in a 6.5-minute stretch wrapped around halftime. Caleb Patterson got the Bears' first points of the half with a bucket at the 14:36 mark, ending a 7-0 UE run. Trailing 34-28, the Bears got baskets from Nafis Ricks, Jermaine Mallett and Ricks again to cut the deficit to 35-34 midway in the half. The teams traded buckets around the 8-minute media time out and the Bears' Will Creekmore put MSU ahead at 7:31 with a putback. UE got two FT's but Kyle Weems hit his third three of the game with 6:45 left for a 41-39 MSU edge. Patterson and Mallett scored to move MSU up 45-39 with 5:30 to play. Ryan hit a three and Kavon Lacey hit a breakaway layup to get UE within a point at 45-44 at the last media time out. Holmes put UE up with two FT's with 3:22 left, for his first points since the 12-minute mark of the first half. Weems hit two free throws with 3:03 left to end a 7-0 UE run. The teams traded multiple possessions with no more scoring until inside the final minute. Adam Leonard buried a three with 30 seconds left for his first points of the night. Weems added a FT with 14.4 left and Mallett hit a charity toss with six seconds left for the Bears' final margin. MSU closed the game on a 7-0 run. UE was scoreless over the last 3:22 minutes.

Records/Tournament Notes: Tonight's attendance of 7,490 is the third largest for the tourney's opening round sessions. The Bears' point total equals the fifth lowest winning score in MVC tourney history.