

2010 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 6, Quarterfinals, 8:35 p.m., Fri., March 5, St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center): #3 Illinois State 69, #6 Indiana State 65

Illinois State: The Redbirds' 69-65 win over the Sycamores moves the Redbirds to 22-9 for the season and into Saturday's 4:05 p.m. tourney semifinal matchup vs. #2 Wichita State. Coach Tim Jankovich is 71-29 in his third year at Illinois State and 174-100 in his 9th year overall as a college head coach. Illinois State leads its all-time series vs. Indiana State 57-46, including 2-1 this year, and Illinois State has won four of the last six meetings between the schools. Illinois State's overall MVC tourney record is 35-24. The Redbirds are into the semifinals for the third year in a row.

Tonight is the 49th consecutive career start for Osiris Eldridge and his 96th career double-digit scoring game with 26 of them this season. Eldridge scored 17 points tonight and is averaging 16.4 in eight MVC tourney games. Illinois State has tied the school record for the most wins in any three-year period. The 1995-98 teams also won 71 games over three seasons. Austin Hill had a 10-point burst that tied the game at the end of the first half. His season average was 6.3. Dinma Odiakosa was scoreless in the first half tonight after leading the Redbirds in scoring with 21 points in each of the first two meetings with Indiana State. Odiakosa, the top rebounder in the MVC, reached 8 rebounds in a game for the 22nd time this year. Hill's 17 points marked a new career high for him. He previously had 14 in a game twice.

Indiana State: Indiana State is 17-14 on the season and has an all-time mark of 18-28 in MVC tourney play. Coach Kevin McKenna is now 43-51 in his third year with the Sycamores and 133-84 in his 7th year overall as a college head coach.

Indiana State is 1-0 this season when tied at the half. Harry Marshall, Indiana State's leading scorer for the season, was scoreless in the first half. Dwayne Lathan came off the bench to score a career-best 27 points, including a career-best five treys. His previous point high was 18.

First Half: The first half saw two early ties and five lead changes before Indiana State's Dwayne Lathan scored nine points to key a 12-1 Sycamores' run to get a 16-15 Sycamores lead at 8:22 to 28-16 with 3:57 left. Illinois State went 8:20 without a field goal in that span. From there, Austin Hill scored five straight buckets as the Redbirds pulled even with Indiana State at 28-28 at the half. Hill was 5/5 from the field the first half after Illinois State starters were 5/25 from the floor the first half. Hill's 5/5 shooting came after Illinois State had missed 12 shots in a row from the field. Indiana State missed its last five shots and 10 of its last 13 before halftime.

Second Half: Dinma Odiakosa opened the second half scoring with a tip-in at 18:50 for his first points of the contest. Harry Marshall hit a deep three for his first points of the night at 18:10 to snap a 14-0 Illinois State scoring run. Lloyd Phillips, another starter scoreless in the first half, got his first bucket of the night to give Illinois State a five-point lead at 36-31. Indiana State battled back and took a 43-41 lead on back-to-back treys around the 13-minute mark. Indiana State got another three to go up 46-43. A three-point play by Eldridge at the 7:00 mark keyed a 13-0 Illinois run, good for a 56-46 Redbird lead before Indiana State stopped the run with two buckets to cut it to 56-50 at the final media time out. Illinois State had its biggest lead at 61-50 before the Sycamores whittled the final margin down to four points. Illinois State was 11/18 from the foul line the last 3:18 to secure the win. Totally, the score was tied four times with 10 lead changes.

Tournament Notes: The halftime margin through the first six games of this tourney has been two points or less. Non-starters for both teams scored 35 of the combined 56 points in the first half. The bench scoring trend continued through the second half with Illinois State getting 32 of its 69 points from non-starters while Indiana State got 40 of its 65 points from reserves for a game figure of 72 of 134 total points in the game coming from bench players. Tonight's session attendance is 10,182.