

# 2010 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 8, Semifinals, 4:05 p.m., Sat., March 6, St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center): #2 Wichita State 65, #3 Illinois State 61

**Wichita State:** The Shockers' 65-61 win over the Redbirds moves WSU to 25-8 this season and into Sunday's 1:00 p.m. championship game vs. top-seeded UNI. Coach Gregg Marshall is 53-45 in his third year at Wichita State and 247-128 in his 12th year overall as a college head coach. WSU is 23-28 all-time in the MVC tourney. WSU won two of three from ISU this year but still trails the Redbirds all-time 36-29. Before today, WSU had lost six straight MVC semifinal games. This is the Shockers' first trip to the finals since 1987 and their fourth title game ever (beat Tulsa in '87 and '85, lost to Creighton in '81).

Toure' Murry was 2/7 from three-point range overall in two previous games vs. ISU but was 2/2 from three in the first three minutes today. He had 13 by halftime, compared to a total of 15 in two ISU-WSU season meetings. WSU led at the half in all three games vs. Illinois State this year. WSU is 23-2 when leading at the half this year. Demetric Williams had nine points in the first half today after getting nine vs. Missouri State in Q-finals, and he matched his career high of 12 with his trey at the 4:00 mark in the second half. Garrett Stutz, after getting 19 vs. Missouri State Friday, reached double digits Saturday just past the mid-point of the second half and finished with 12 points. After hitting 24/25 from the line Friday, WSU was 15/20 today.

**Illinois State:** Illinois State is 22-10 for the year. Coach Tim Jankovich is 71-30 in his third year at Illinois State (5-3 in MVC tourney) and 174-101 in his 9<sup>th</sup> year overall as a college head coach. Illinois State's all-time tourney record is 35-25. The Redbirds missed joining Southern Illinois in 1993-94-95 as the only tourney teams to get to the finals three years in a row and Jankovich missed becoming the first coach in MVC history to get to the tourney finals each of his first three seasons.

Illinois State has more wins (72) the past three years than any other MVC school in that span. It's also the most wins for ISU for any three-year period in the Redbirds' history. ISU won 71 games from 1995-98. Dinma Odiakosa had his team-best 28<sup>th</sup> double-digit scoring game of the season, and the 50<sup>th</sup> of his career. Lloyd Phillips had his 38<sup>th</sup> double-digit point game. Dinma Odiakosa tied his career-best 13 FT attempts today, making five. Osiris Eldridge, last year's Most Outstanding Player hit just 7/27 from the floor in two tourney games this year. Eldridge finished his career at the MVC tourney with 139 points in nine career tourney games. That total ties him for 11<sup>th</sup> in MVC tourney career scoring. Eldridge finished with 60 career three-point attempts in the tourney, one short of Kyle Korver's career mark of 61. WSU finished at .538 (14/26) from the foul line for the game.

**First Half:** The game was 6-6 when WSU got two quick buckets for a 10-6 lead. ISU had a 6-0 run for a 12-10 lead at the 10:55 mark and then WSU scored seven straight for a 17-12 edge with 9:53 to play. Demetric Williams got all seven of those WSU points on a three and two twos in just 52 seconds after a combined total of just five points in two previous games vs. Illinois State. Garrett Stutz hit a baby hook at the 2:20 mark and Clevin Hannah hit a reverse fast break layup at 1:33 to give WSU its biggest lead at 28-20. WSU led 34-20 at the half. Illinois State shot .462 (6/13) from the foul line in the half. Dinma Odiakosa, a .521 FT shooter this season, missed five of seven from the line. Illinois State's 11 first-half turnovers are more than the six the Redbirds committed in the entire game vs. Indiana State Friday.

**Second Half:** A 5-0 run moved Wichita State out to its biggest lead at 39-30 with 16:35 left, but ISU had an 8-0 run to get within 39-38 with 13:19 left. Osiris Eldridge got his first point of the second half at 7:17 mark. Demetric Williams hit a trey at the four-minute mark to push WSU ahead 55-48 for the Shockers' largest lead since it was 39-32 with 16 minutes left. Murry dropped in a basket with 2:05 left, J.T. Durley hit one free throw and Garrett Stutz put back Durley's second miss to let WSU match its biggest lead of the game at 60-51 with 1:30 remaining. Gabe Blair made it 62-52 with 1:18 left with two FTs. ISU got two free throws and then a FG from Austin Hill. Durley hit an FT for WSU before Alex Rubin drained a trey out of the deep left corner with 27.2 seconds left to get the Redbirds back within 63-59. A WSU turnover got ISU the ball back and Odiakosa got a dunk with 19.6 seconds left to close Redbirds within 63-61. Graham Hatch got behind ISU defense for a three-quarter court pass and a layup with 16 seconds left to make the final score 65-61. It was Hatch's only goal of the game. Illinois State led for just 2:46 of the game.

**Tournament Notes:** Today's attendance is 13,814. The tourney total is 42,326 through four of five tourney sessions this year. Last year's total attendance was 54,399 and the tourney attendance record is 85,074 (2007). This marks the 19<sup>th</sup> time the #2 seed has advanced to the title game. It's the third year in a row the title game has featured the top two seeds and the 12<sup>th</sup> time in tourney history it has happened. This game marked the first time in eight games in this tourney both teams had more turnovers than assists.