

2010 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 9, Championship, 1:05 p.m., Sun., March 7, St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center): #1 UNI 67, #2 Wichita State 52

UNI: The Panthers' 67-52 win over the Shockers moves UNI to 27-4 for the season and gives the Panthers their second straight MVC tourney title and the league's automatic bid into the 2010 NCAA Tournament. It's the first time since Illinois State in 1997 and 1998 the top seed has won back-to-back titles. Coach Ben Jacobson is 86-42 in his fourth year at UNI and overall as a college head coach. He is 7-2 in the MVC Tourney. UNI this year won two of three from Wichita State and leads the all-time series against WSU 23-18. UNI is now 16-15 in the MVC tourney and 6-0 as the top seed. UNI has won four games in a row and this is the Panthers' third win in four tries in the tourney title game (beat Missouri State in 2 OTs in 2004, beat Illinois State in OT in 2009, lost to SIU in 1994). Tourney top seeds have now won three straight tourney titles.

Adam Koch today broke the UNI career record for games played with 128. Koch had been tied with Eric Coleman. Jake Koch's two threes in the first half marked the fourth time this season he'd had two in a game and he drained a third midway through the second half. J. Koch did not take a shot in UNI's first two tourney games. J. Koch's (13) points marked only his second double-figure scoring game of the season. MVC Player of the Year Adam Koch didn't score after a previous season low of six points. Jordan Eglseider had a career-high (5) blocks today. When UNI held WSU without a bucket for 12:14 minutes today, it came after a 20:58-minute FG blanking of Drake in Friday's quarterfinal win. The UNI bench outscored WSU reserves 19-10 today. UNI is now 12-0 when scoring 60 or more points. Kwadzo Ahelegbe is averaging 20.5 points in the last two MVC title games and he hit 12/14 FTs today to score 24 points, his second highest point total of the season. UNI is just the seventh team to win MVC title game after trailing at the half. UNI extends its school season win record again. UNI allowed just 132 points in three tourney wins. The previous defensive best for a team was 147 from SIU in 2006. UNI's five turnovers tied the Panthers' season low. Today was the first time in three WSU-UNI meetings this year the team with more rebounds lost.

Wichita State: WSU falls to 25-8 with the loss. Coach Gregg Marshall is 53-46 in his third year at WSU and 247-129 in his 12th year overall as a college head coach. WSU is 23-29 all-time in the MVC tourney. WSU is 2-2 in MVC tourney title games.

WSU was 24-2 when leading at the half this year before today. J.T. Durley had a season-high eight turnovers and WSU had 16 TO's as a team to just 5 for UNI. Wichita out-rebounded the Panthers 39-27 for the game. Toure' Murry, WSU's second-leading scorer for the season was scoreless today until the final 3:14 of the game and finished with six points. Clevin Hannah led WSU scoring with 12 points on four treys, one short of his season high. Garrett Stutz had 11 points, his third double-figure scoring game of the tourney.

First Half: UNI got a bucket from Kwadzo Ahelegbe on its second possession and the game stayed 2-0 until WSU's J.T. Durley got a three-point play at 15:34. UNI's Jake Koch hit two threes within 1:25 and UNI got a trey from Anthony James to build a 12-5 edge but WSU answered with back-to-back threes by Graham Hatch to cut the UNI lead to 12-11 at 10:30, and then went ahead on a running one-hander from Garrett Stutz for a 13-12 lead at 9:49. Demetric Williams made it an 11-0 run and 16-12 with a trey at 9:05 before Ahelegbe scored for UNI at 8:54 to stop the run. UNI was up 21-18 at the 4-minute mark with reserves having scored 16 of UNI's 21 points. The five UNI starters were a combined 2-for-16 shooting and reserves hit 6-of-8, including four treys at that point. WSU got a bucket from Aaron Ellis and a trey from Clevin Hannah to regain the lead at 23-21 at the 2:30 mark. Jordan Eglseider popped in two layups to put UNI back in front at 27-25 with a minute left before Hannah and Williams hit threes in the final minute for a 31-28 WSU halftime lead. The score was tied 5 times and there were 9 lead changes in the first half, and it marked the third time in three meetings vs. UNI that WSU had led at halftime. WSU missed its first three attempts from three-point range and made 6-of-9 the rest of the half. WSU had a 24-10 rebound edge at the half. Toure' Murry, WSU's second leading scorer, was 0/4 with three fouls in the first half but had a game-high five rebounds.

Second Half: Early firing after the break produced a 33-33 tie before WSU got treys from Hannah and Stutz for WSU's biggest lead at 39-33 at the 16:23 mark. A three-point play by Jordan Eglseider and a trey from Ali Farokhmanesh put UNI back ahead at 43-41 with 11:40 left. UNI got a trey from Ahelegbe to cap an 8-0 run for a 51-42 lead – the Panthers' biggest edge of the game – at the 6:25 mark. Ahelegbe extended that run to 10-0 with two free throws with 6:08 left and Moran made it a 13-0 and 19-1 run and 56-42 score at 5:00 with a trey. Hannah hit a trey at 4:10 to end the UNI run with what was WSU's first basket in 12:14 minutes. The Shockers did not get closer than nine points the rest of the way and Lucas O'Rear put an exclamation point on the win as he glassed a trey from the top of the circle with nine seconds left. UNI was 6/10 on threes the second half.

Tournament Notes: Today's attendance is 9,297. Total 2010 attendance of 51,613 ranks seventh all-time. The attendance record is 85,074 from 2007. Total tourney attendance for the 20 years the meet has been in St. Louis is 973,387. This is the third year in a row the title game has matched the top two seeds and the 13th time in tourney history it has happened. The total of 1,072 points scored in the tourney (119.1/game) is the third lowest total in meet history. Eglseider's five blocked shots today tied the MVC Tourney title game record (Benoit Benjamin, CU, 1984 and Djibril Kante, INSU, 2001)